shadow Star

儚なる星珠たる子

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SHADOWS OF THE PAST

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THE LAST DAYS OF SUMMER

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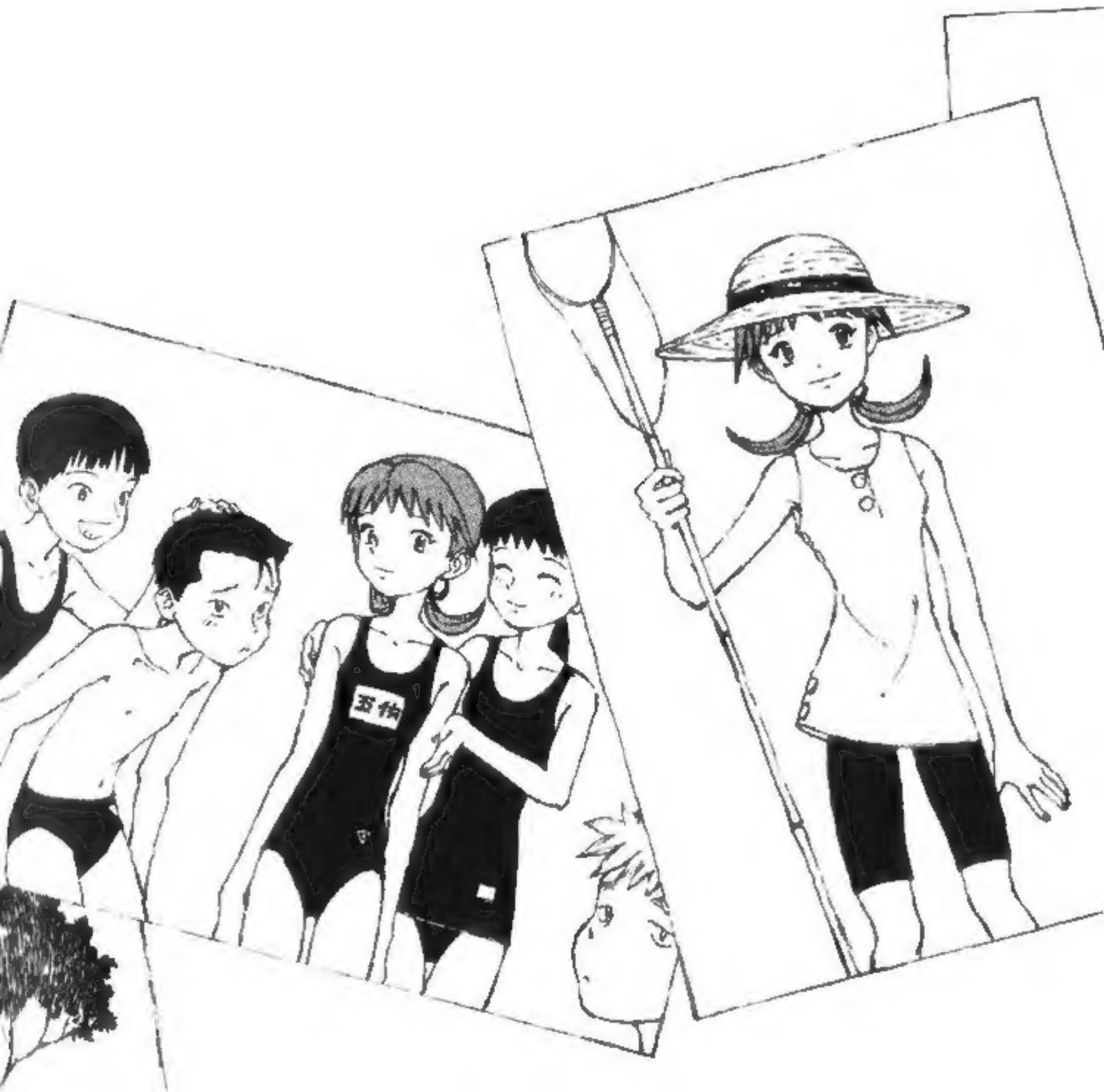


HEY, HIRO!
OH... HI, TAKAYA.
YO.

YOU GOIN' TO SHIINA'S PLACE?

UH-HUH.

TELL HER TO DRAG HER LAZY BUTT OUTTA BED AND STARTING COMING TO MORNING EXERCISE AGAIN, WOULD YOU?

WHY DON'T YOU TELL HER *YOURSELF?* YOU LIVE NEXT DOOR.

YEAH, BUT...

WE'D PROBABLY JUST GET INTO A FIGHT ABOUT IT. AS USUAL.

SO... YOU *MISS HER,* HMM?

KCHAK

WHAT?! NO WAY!

HA HA...

DINGG DONGG

HIYA, HIRO! ♥ C'MON IN!

HI, SHIINA! HOW'S THE HOME-WORK GOING ...?

WELL ...

NOT TOO GOOD, BUT...YOU KNOW ME... HA, HA.

WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE NEWSPAPER PAGES?

LOOKS LIKE NOTHING BUT THE CRIME STORIES...

UM... HIRO ...?

CAN I ASK YOU A FAVOR?

WHAT'S THAT ...?

I... UM... I WANT YOU TO GO SOMEPLACE WITH ME.

I... ....

I JUST DON'T WANT TO GO THERE *ALONE.*

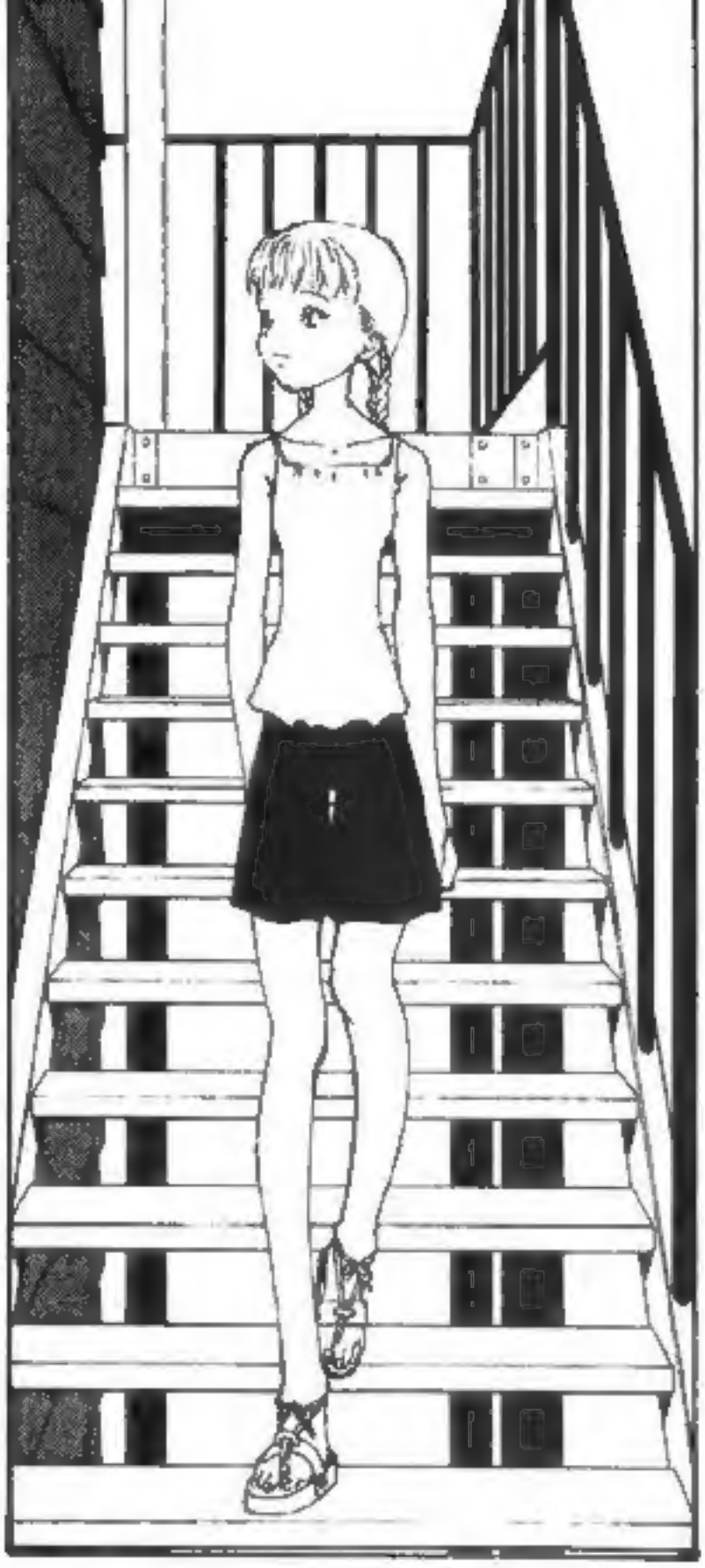
OKAY, I GUESS, BUT... HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

ABOUT TWO HOURS... I THINK.

YOU CAN WAIT FOR ME OUTSIDE.

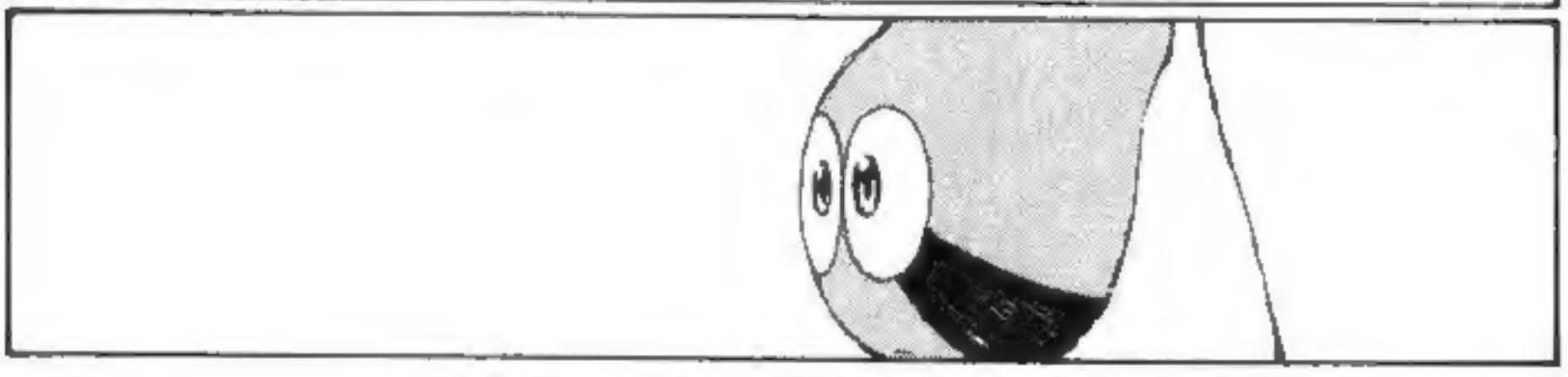
I'LL LOCK THE WINDOWS AND STUFF.

THAT'LL STILL LEAVE US PLENTY OF TIME TO GET OUR HOMEWORK DONE AFTER THAT. OKAY, SURE!



HOSHI-
MARU.

YOU
STAY
HERE.
DON'T
FOLLOW
ME.



YOUR FATHER'S COMPANY ...?

RIGHT NEAR IT.

THEN WE TAKE THE MOTOKI BUS, AND THE STOP'S *THIS* WAY, RIGHT?

AH... YEAH... BUT I SORT OF WANT TO GO *THIS* WAY, 'CAUSE...

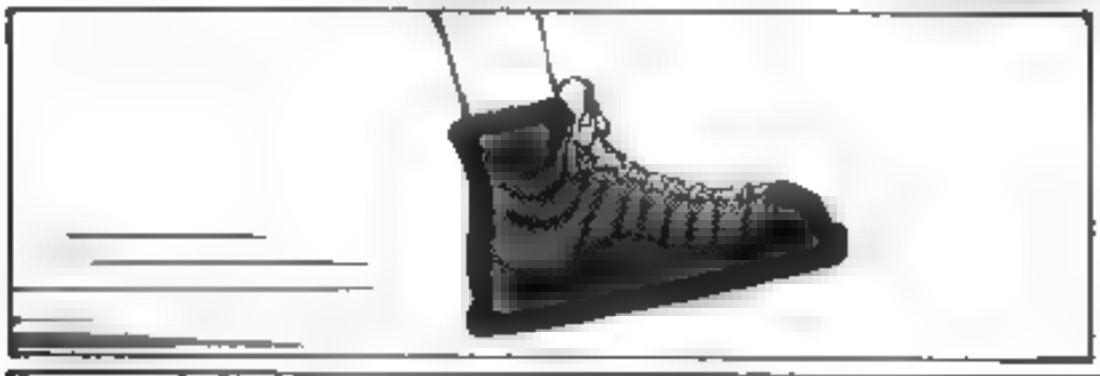
Y'KNOW ...JUST *'CAUSE.*

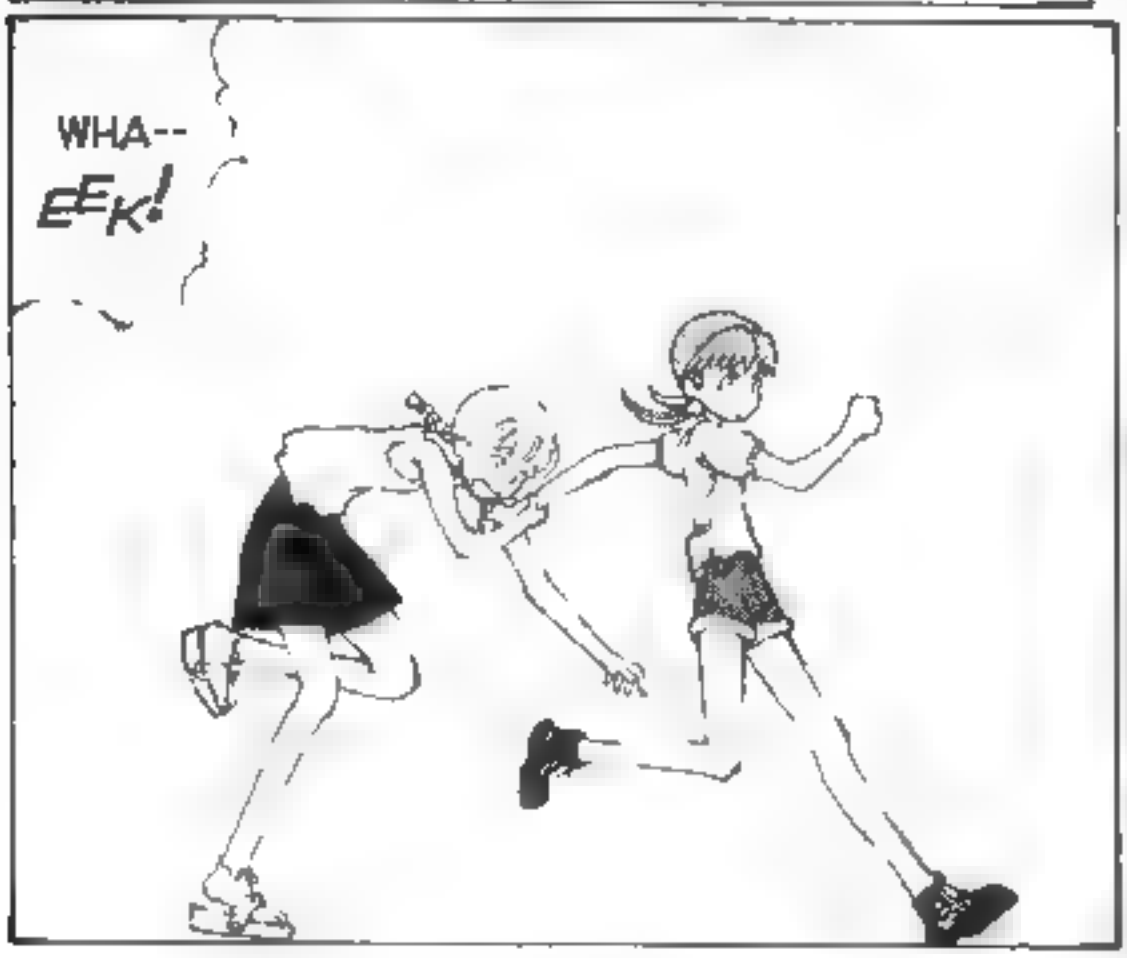
BUT THAT'S THE *LONG WAY AROUND,* SHIINA!

DON'T BE SILLY. COME ON!

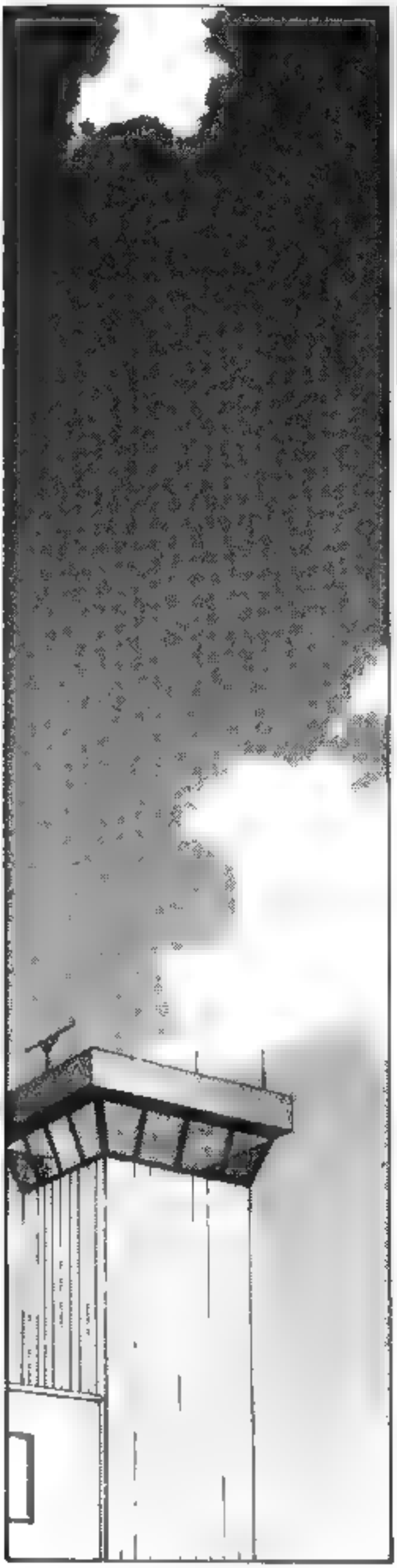
UMMMM.

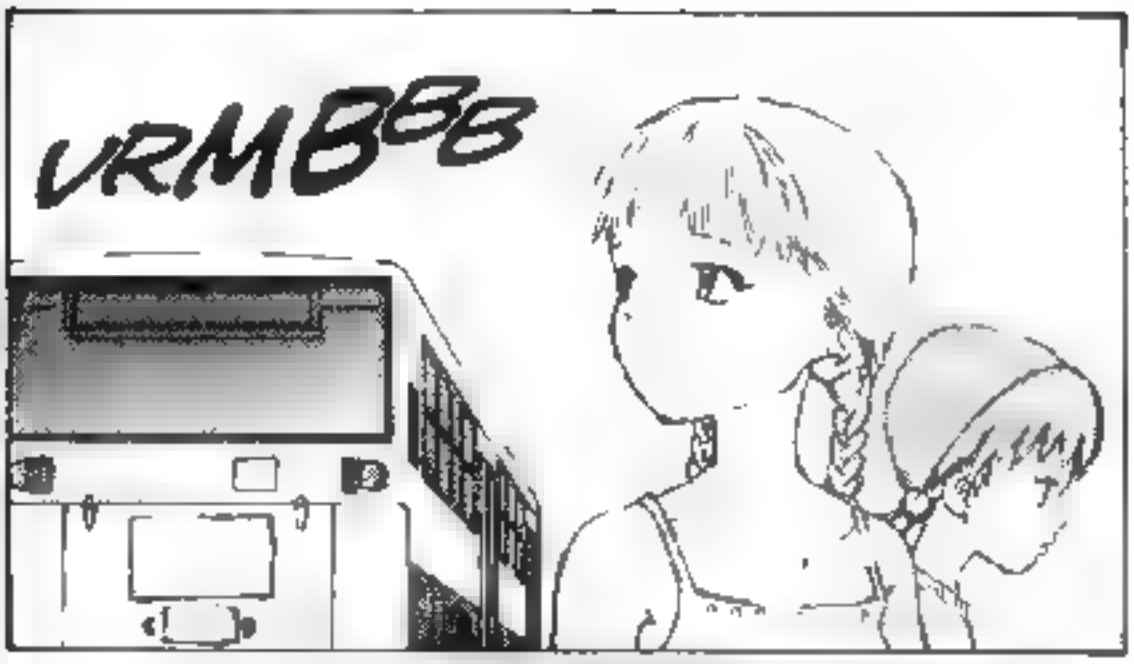
POLICE




WHA--
EEK!

SHIINA?!
SHIINA!!

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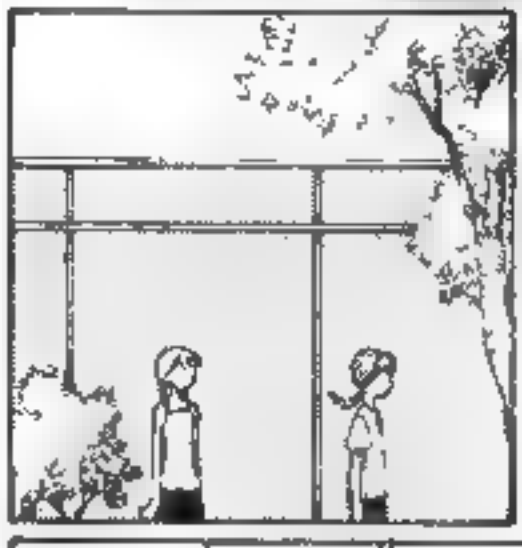
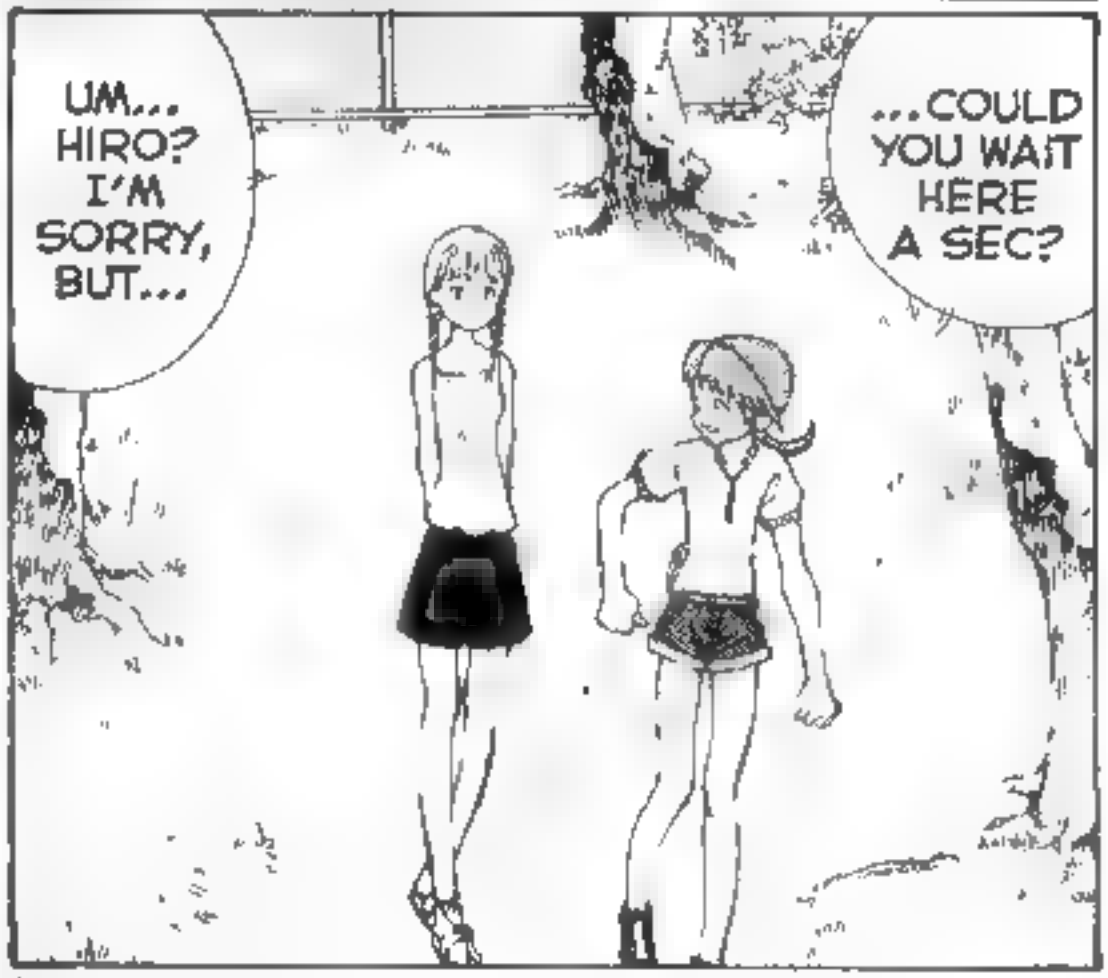
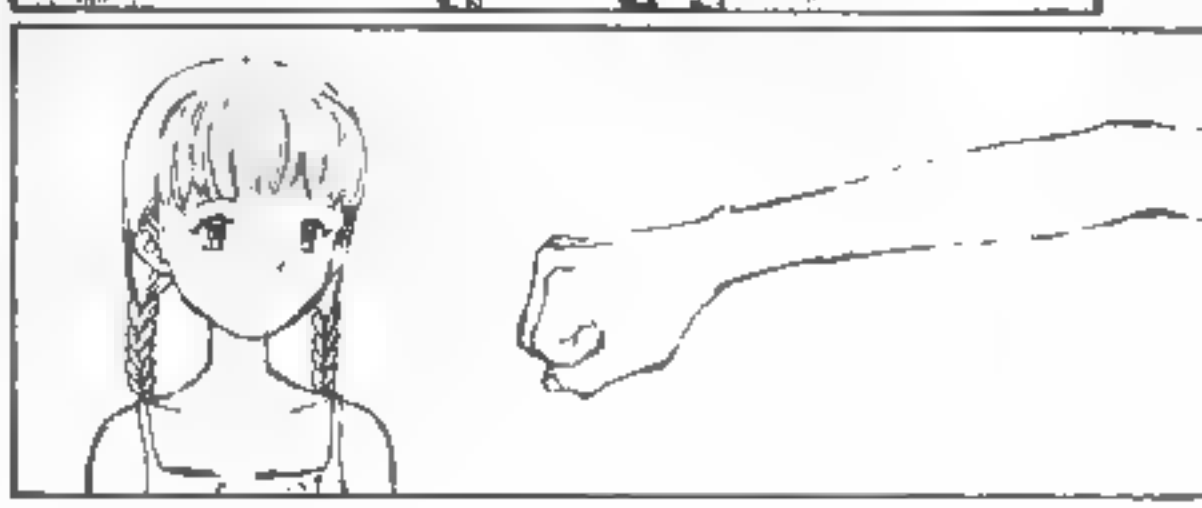



UM... HIRO? I'M SORRY, BUT...
...COULD YOU WAIT HERE A SEC?



本木デポ
MOTOKI DEPOT

HELLO, AUNTIE?!

IS... IS THIS WHAT YOU CAME FOR?

.... YEAH.

WELL, IF IT ISN'T MR. TAMAI'S LITTLE SHIINA!

HELLO, AUNTIE SAITO!

AND... ONE OF THESE.

THAT'LL BE 120 YEN, DEAR.

KSH

HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR SUMMER HOMEWORK?

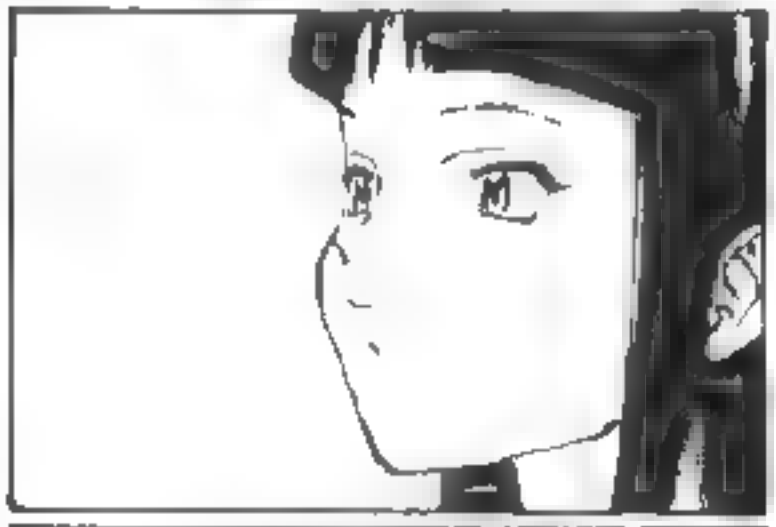
WELL, UH HA HA HA...

BYE-BYE, AUNTIE! SEE YOU AGAIN!

IF YOU SEE MY DAD, TELL--

FDD

OH! UM... S- SORRY.



HMPF!

AW, NO PROBLEM!

I STILL DON'T SEE WHY I HAVE TO DO THIS.

YEAH?

COME ON, YOU USED TO LOVE HANGING OUT IN SHOPS LIKE THIS.

FORGET ABOUT MY PAST. I HAVE.

WELL, I CAN'T!

SIGH

BOY, YOU WERE SUCH A *SWEETHEART* BACK THEN! ♥

HOW ABOUT I GIVE YOU A PICTURE OF ME FROM THOSE DAYS?

THEN YOU CAN JERK OFF TO IT AND MAYBE YOU'LL LEAVE ME ALONE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE. I'D LIKE THAT.

I MEANT YOUR *PERSON-ALITY.*

OH. SO SORRY.

I'M AFRAID THERE ISN'T ANY OF *THAT* LEFT. IT SIMPLY COULDN'T BE PRESERVED.

SURP

DIDN'T KNOW HIM, DID SHE? NOTHING GAINED.

A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME.

WELL, FOOTWORK'S STILL THE FOUNDATION OF INTELLIGENCE GATHERING.

WITH THAT UNIFORM ...?

...BANDA ACADEMY'S ...

PANDA ACADEMY?!

GET OUTTA HERE!

BUT IT'S *RED* AND BLACK! THE RARE AND ENDANGERED "*RED* AND BLACK PANDA"...?

HEE HEE!

SHIINA, SHE'LL HEAR--!!

SMACK

AH...

HEY!!

WHY, YOU --!!

JESUS, SATOMI! GRAB A BRAIN!

NO, SHIINA, DON'T!

LOOK, SATOMI ...!

PLEASE, SHIINA.

SORRY, MISS.

I'M *REALLY* SORRY, HONEST!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?! THEY'RE JUST A COUPLE OF *KIDS!*

SO? THAT TYPE DISGUSTS ME.

SO *STUPID*-- NOT A THOUGHT IN THEIR HEADS.

THEY'LL JUST GROW UP, GET MARRIED, AND START PUMPING OUT LITTLE BRATS.

NEVER THINKING ABOUT THE CONSE-QUENCES... JUST MIND-LESSLY REPRO-DUCING.

COMPLETELY OBLIVIOUS TO ANY THOUGHT OF *GOOD* OR *EVIL*... SINKING INTO THAT FALSE HAPPINESS...

I HATE THAT SORT OF... *THING!*

COME ON— YOU CAN'T JUDGE THAT JUST BY HER *LOOKS!*

ANYWAY... LET'S GO.

I'M SORRY, SHIINA.

CANDY SNACKS

MOTOKI DEPOT

本木ナホ

REALLY....

...YOU HAD EVERY RIGHT TO HIT THAT GIRL BACK.

S... SORRY.

AW, DON'T WORRY. IT'S NOT *YOUR* FAULT, HIRO.

BUT I STOPPED YOU BECAUSE... UM...

I'M PROBABLY... .....

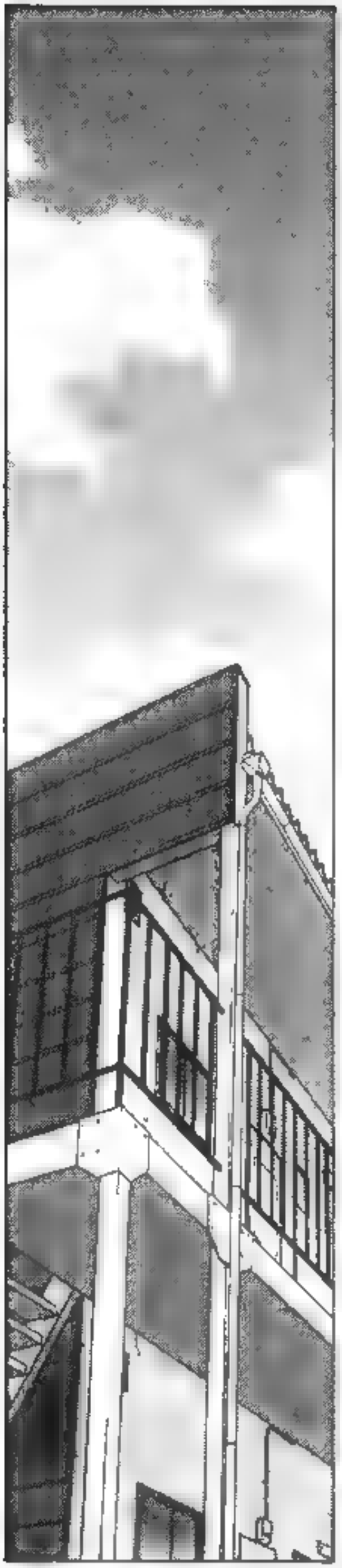
WELL, MY PARENTS HAVE *APPLIED* TO SEND ME TO BANDA ACADEMY'S JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL.

IF I GET IN, AND THAT GIRL REMEMBERS ME, SHE COULD MAKE MY LIFE AS A FRESHMAN KIND OF TOUGH.

THAT'S WHY I STOPPED YOU.

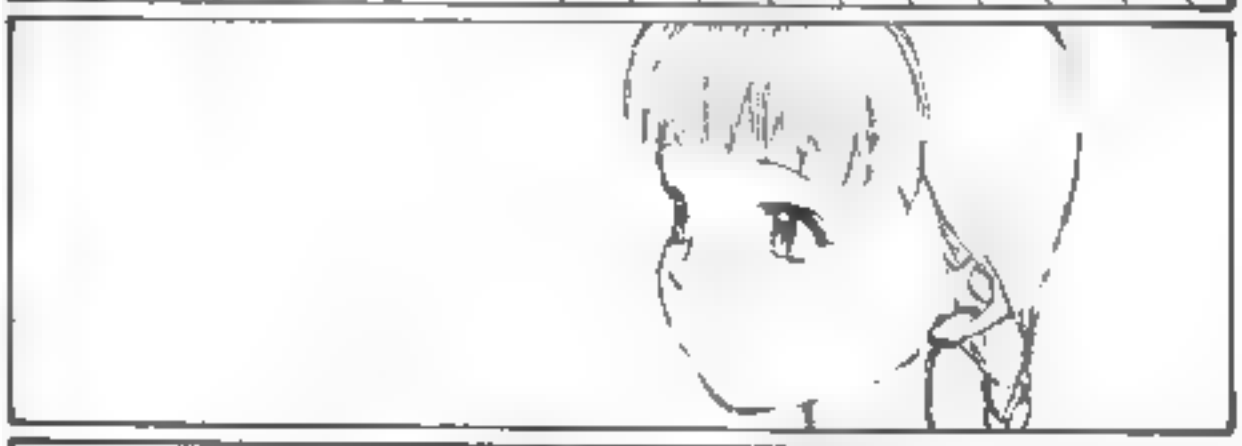
IT WAS TOTALLY SELFISH OF ME.

SO... I *APOLOGIZE*, SHIINA.



Zzzzz

I SURE HOPE YOU'RE HUNGRY!
I'M JUST FRYING UP THE LEFTOVER RICE AND EGGS AND STUFF FROM THIS MORNING, BUT IT'S MORE THAN I THOUGHT.



UM... HOW'S YOUR NOSE, SHIINA?
AW, NO PROB! GUESS, OUGHTTA TAKE OUT THE TISSUE, HUH?

WOW, SHIINA!

IT'S *DELICIOUS!*

I'M REALLY BAD AT COOKING... HEH, HEH.

BUT AT LEAST YOU'RE *SMART*, HIRO!

YOU ARE, TOO... WHEN YOU *WANT* TO BE, SHIINA.

HEH HEH HEH... NOT *ME!*

YOU'LL MAKE A *GREAT* MOTHER, SHIINA.

FOR *SURE!*

NO, I WON'T.

'CAUSE...

...I ALREADY DECIDED.

I *WON'T* GET MARRIED...

...AND I'LL *NEVER* HAVE CHILDREN.

MISERY: 1/365TH

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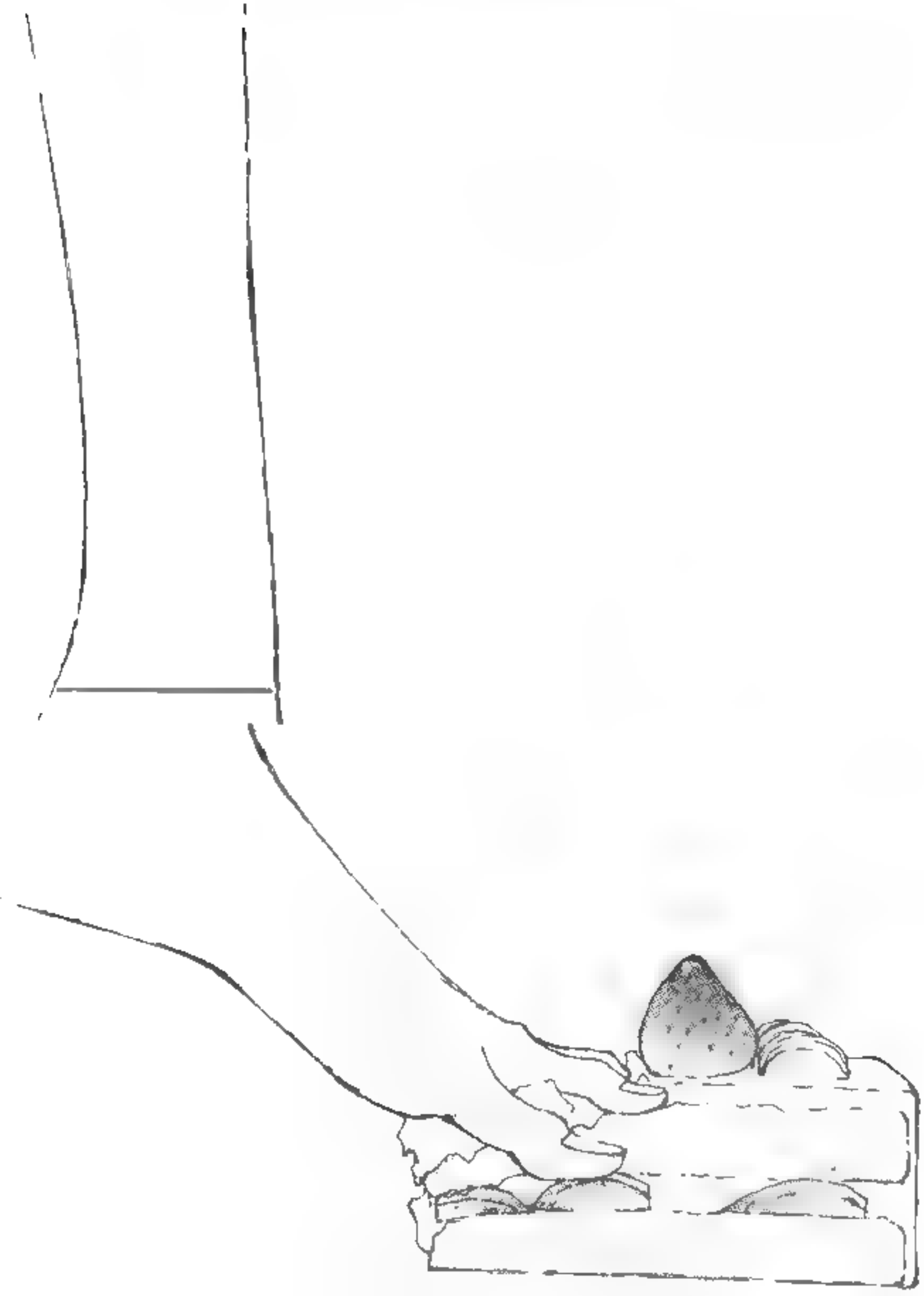


HEY... YOU GUYS KNOW *PROFESSOR TAMAI?*

I... um... DON'CHA THINK SHE'S A *LOOKER?*

THAT VISITING PHYSICS PROF?

YEAH, BUT SHE'S OVER *FORTY,* MAN.

NO *WAY!* BULL!!

'S TRUE, MAN.

HUH. *MAYBE.* BUT HE'S RIGHT... SHE *IS* A BABE!

GEEZ, SHE'S OLD ENOUGH TO BE YOUR *MOM!*

SHE'S EVEN GOT A *DAUGH-TER.*

HOW COME YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT HER...?

WELL, Y'KNOW... HEH, HEH.

WONDER IF THE KID'S A *BABE*, TOO? HOW OLD IS SHE?

ELEVEN... MAYBE TWELVE.

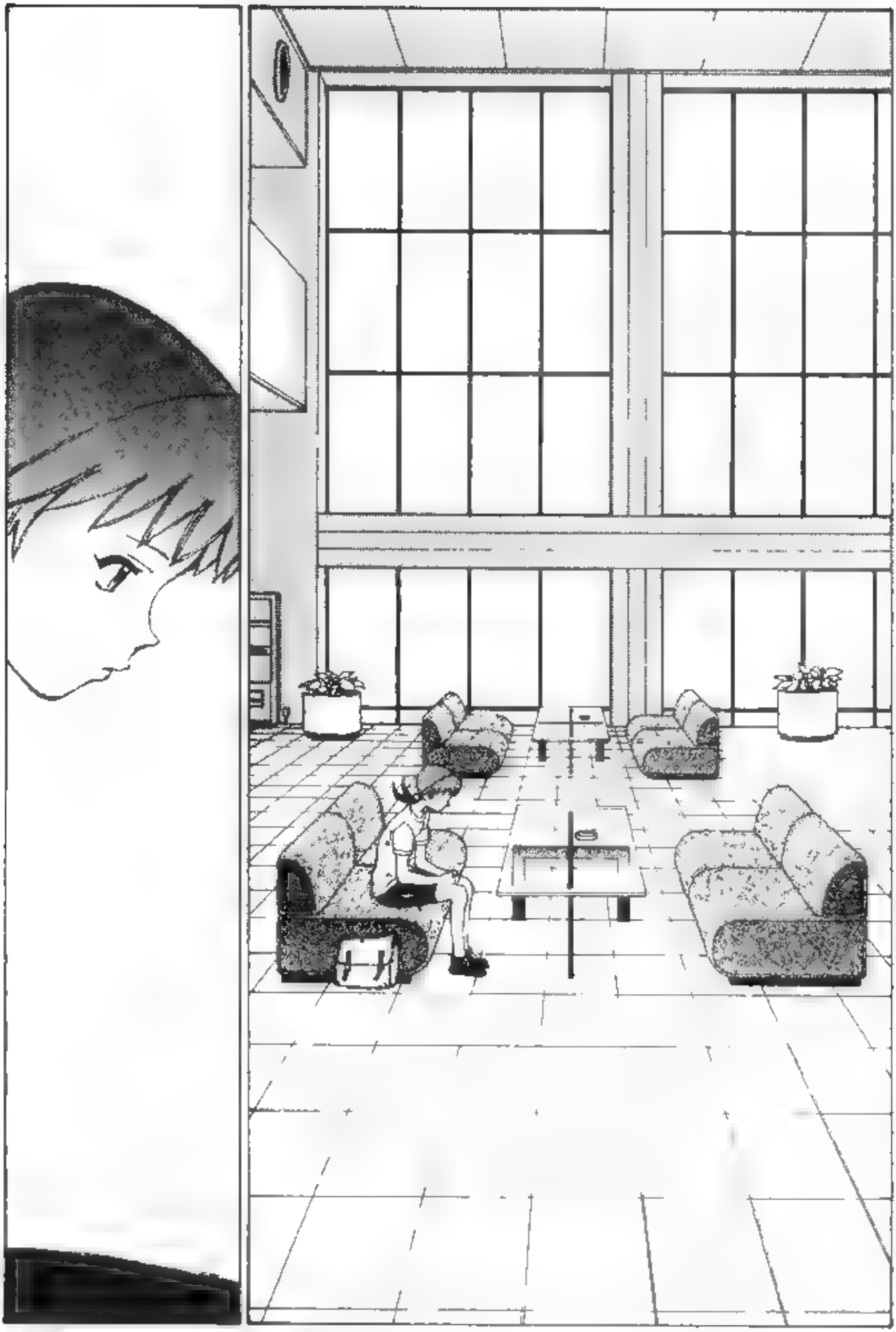
AW, MAN-- SHE'S *THAT* YOUNG?

CRAP. SO MUCH FOR THAT IDEA.

I...

I'M WILLING TO WAIT. IF SHE TURNS OUT AS CUTE AS HER MOM.

LOSER!!



KSSH

TAK

TAK

TAK

TAK

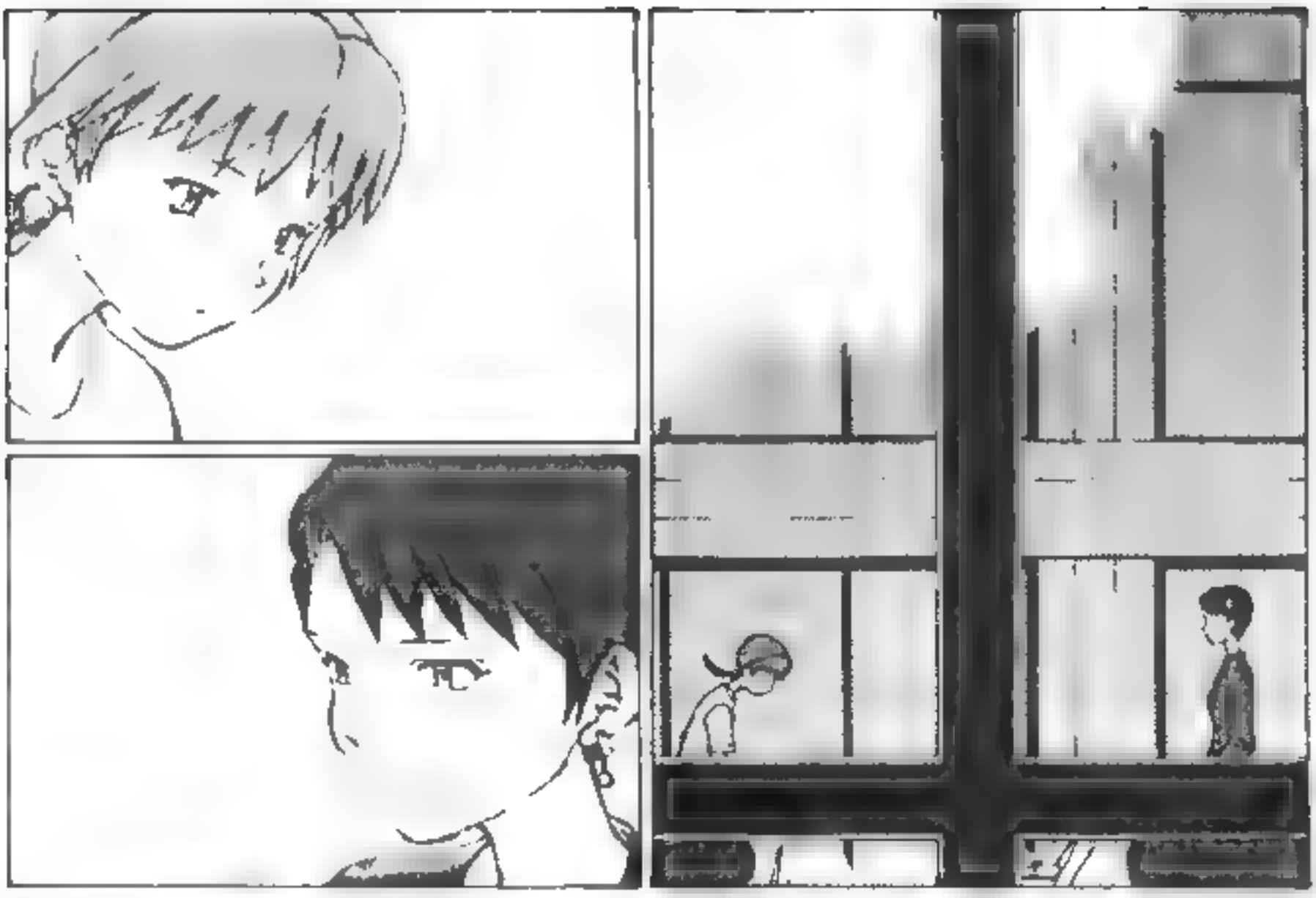
TAK

TAK

KTAK

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

FMPH
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SHIINA.



PEHO
TOKK
CIGARETTES
CHKK
FFHEE
K...
HELLO.

HOW'S YOUR FATHER?

THE COMPANY'S HAVING SOME TROUBLE, ISN'T IT?

YOU LOOK *MISERABLY* SKINNY, EVEN FOR A GIRL YOUR AGE.

I'LL BET YOU HAVEN'T BEEN EATING ENOUGH.

IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU STARTED TO FILL OUT A BIT, YOU KNOW.

SO WHAT *ARE* YOU EATING? TAKE-OUT FOOD, PROBABLY.

YOUR FATHER'S TERRIBLE ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT. YOU MUST POINT IT OUT TO HIM.

UM...

SO.

LET'S SEE IT.

THE FIRST SEMES-TER...

STILL USING THIS HYPOCRITICAL GRADING SYSTEM, ARE THEY?

"TRY HARDER." "JUST A BIT MORE..." "SUCCESS!"

LOOK AT THIS...ONE AFTER ANOTHER... "TRY HARDER." AS IF WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY *REALLY* MEAN!

教科のようす

1学期

評価項目

がんばりましょう

もう少し

できました

できます

IT'S BETTER TO JUST TELL STUDENTS WHO CAN'T MAKE IT THAT THEY CAN'T.

THOSE WHO *CAN* TRY HARDER, WILL. THOSE WHO *CAN'T*, WON'T.

DO THEY THINK *EVERYBODY* CAN "TRY HARDER" ...?

TRYING HARD IS A SKILL, TOO.

THEY'RE STILL CLINGING TO THAT OLD MYTH THAT *MOTIVATION* CAN BE TAUGHT.

THAT'S WHEN THEY AREN'T JUST GIVING YOU MEANINGLESS FACTS TO MEMORIZE AND REGURGITATE.

GOOD-NESS... YOU REALLY MAKE IT CLEAR, DON'T YOU?

STRIKING OUT IN *EVERYTHING* EXCEPT P.E. AND HOME ECONOMICS.

WITH *YOUR* GENES, THERE'S REALLY NO EXCUSE.

EVEN YOUR *FATHER* WAS ACTUALLY QUITE SMART, ALTHOUGH HE MIGHT NOT LOOK LIKE IT.

FFT

児童 五佐シイナ
保護者

Fffrrrr

SO... YOU STILL WRITE YOUR NAME *PHONETICALLY*, HMM?
"シイナ"

WHY? IT'S CHILDISH. OR... DON'T YOU WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW WHAT IT MEANS WHEN THEY READ THE CHARACTER?

"秕"

..."AN IMMATURE EAR OF WHEAT." OR... "AN EMPTY HUSK."

AHH, MY SWEET SHIINA!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOUUUU!

WOW... TWELVE ALREADY! AND ALREADY SUCH A...

...BEAUTIFUL GIRL.

OKAY! LET'S *EAT!*

I STOPPED BY KAKOHYA AND GOT *EVERYTHING* YOU LIKE!

DOUBLE PORTIONS, TOO!!

AND I MADE *LOTS* OF RICE!

REALLY ...?

WHOA... HOW MUCH DID YOU *MAKE?*

HEH, HEH... *FILLED THE POT!*

WHO'S GONNA EAT ALL *THIS?*

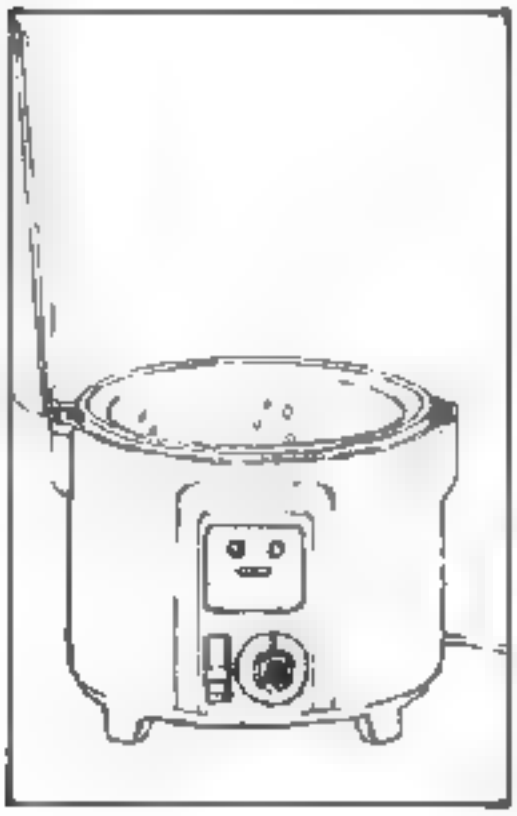
I AM!

GOTTA *GROW UP,* HUH?

OKAY, DAD! LET'S EAT EAT *EAT!!*

HEY, LEAVE SOME FOR YOUR POOR OL' DAD!

HA, HA!



Slurp

HEY, SHIINA ...!

HOPE YOU LEFT ROOM!

LOOK-- BIRTHDAY CAKE!

SLAM

HURRGHHH

:KOFF:

:HUK:

HURRRGH!!

GAMES ANGELS PLAY

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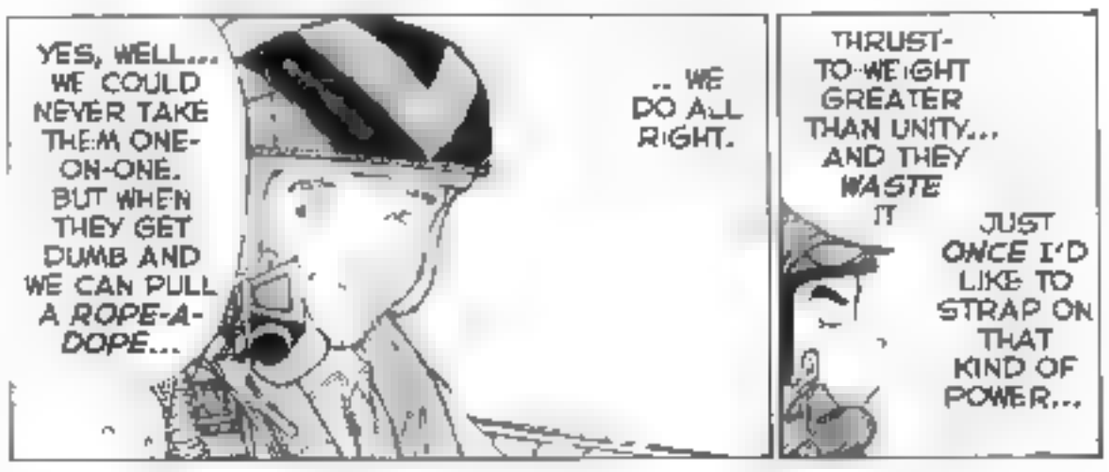
ALL RIGHT!
SPLASHING EAGLES WITH ONE-OH-FOUR STARFIGHTERS! WE CAME, WE TALLY-HO'D WE KICKED THEIR ASS!


YES, WELL... WE COULD NEVER TAKE THEM ONE-ON-ONE. BUT WHEN THEY GET DUMB AND WE CAN PULL A ROPE-A-DOPE...
.. WE DO ALL RIGHT.
THRUST-TO-WEIGHT GREATER THAN UNITY... AND THEY WASTE IT
JUST ONCE I'D LIKE TO STRAP ON THAT KIND OF POWER...

GUESS WHAT? MAYBE YOU WILL.

WE MAY GET A TRIP TO RUSSIA SOON. A LONG ONE.

WHAT?!

PLAT-FORM UP-GRADE

--TO FLANK-ERS.

"NO WAY!

"THE SUKHOI SU-27?! THAT'S ONE OF THE WORLD'S HOTTEST FIGHTERS!"

ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

LOOKS LIKE IT. APPROVAL CAME IN TODAY ON THE IMPORT LICENSE, SO THE BOSS AIMS TO BUY A COUPLE.

THE BOSS SURE LIKES TOYS

YAHOO! IT'S *GOOD* TO BE *ALIVE!*

CALM DOWN, SON! HA, HA

YEAH, BUT... *MAN! ACM** TRAINING WITH *FLANKERS!*

THE STARFIGHTER'S A GREAT OLD BIRD, BUT UP AGAINST *EAGLES?* IT JUST AIN'T FAIR!

* AIR COMBAT MANEUVERS

IF THE OLD MAN CAN SWING A COUPLE FLANKERS, WE MUST BE IN LINE FOR A CRAPLOAD OF WORK FROM THE *ASDF**.

THEY'RE CUTTING COSTS, SO WE'RE GETTING BUSINESS.

SAY... YOU WERE HERE *BEFORE* MOTOKI GOT INTO *ACM*, RIGHT, MISTER TAMAI?

SO WHY'D YOU QUIT THE FORCE? YOU GET HEAD-HUNTED?

NOTHING SO SEXY.

* AIR SELF DEFENSE FORCE: JAPAN'S AIR FORCE

I WAS JUST SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME AWAY FROM THE FAMILY.

FIGURED I'D FLY ISLAND HOPPERS FOR MOTOKI, GET MY LIFE BACK.

THEN THE PREZ GOT US INTO *THIS* STUFF.

HOW ABOUT YOU, ONO? WHY'D *YOU* QUIT?

I JUST COULDN'T TAKE THAT *CHAIN OF COMMAND* BULLSHIT.

BUT, MAN... I *LOVE* FLYING FIGHTERS. IF *MOTOKI* HADN'T BEEN AN OPTION, I'D HAVE RE-UPPED.

I *OWE* YOU, MISTER TAMAI.

THE *PREZ*, YOU MEAN.

SO... WHY'D *YOU* JOIN THE *SDF?*

"I GREW UP ON AN ISLAND, WAY OFF THE COAST. NO AIRFIELD, *NOTHING.*

"SO WHEN SOMEONE GOT SICK OR HURT, IT WAS A BIG DEAL.

"ONE DAY, WHEN THAT HAPPENED, ..."

"THAT'S *IT*, I THOUGHT.

"I FIGURED A *PILOT* COULD HELP MY HOME TOWN."

MY FAMILY WAS DIRT-POOR...

...SO THE *ASDF* WAS JUST THE QUICKEST WAY TO GET MY LICENSE.

SO *YOU* DIDN'T LIKE THE SERVICE, EITHER?

NAW, IT WAS FUN ENOUGH.

THEN *WHY*...

LET IT GO. IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.

MORE TO THE POINT, ONO--

--*CHECK SIX.*

EH?

THOK

AH?!

OH, MAN!!

IF THE PREZ CAUGHT YOU LEAVING A CONTRAIL...

...YOU'D BE YANKED OFF *ASDF* WORK LIKE *THAT*. BYE-BYE *FLANKER!*

GEEZ, I'M *SORRY.*

WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN!

FWHT

WHSSH

WHSSH

FWAP

UH... MISTER TAMAI? THOSE TWO *ACCIDENTS* WE HAD...

WHAT'S GOING ON?

"I MEAN, THAT WAS BAD ENOUGH.

"BUT *MAN*, THOSE *SUITS* THAT SHOWED UP?

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT AGENCY THEY CAME FROM, BUT THEY WERE *BAD NEWS.*

"THEY ACTED LIKE THEY COULD DO *ANYTHING* TO YOU IF YOU TALKED.

"AND YOU SAW THE NEWS ...?

"WHAT A LOAD OF *CRAP!*

"SAYING IT WAS A *MAINTEN-ANCE* THING... *OUR* FAULT!"

"EVEN THAT BLABBER-MOUTH *KURA* WON'T SAY ANYTHING NOW."

SOME-THING *STINKS.*

THIS ISN'T *CHINA!*

THEY CAN'T LOCK YOU UP FOR TALKING TO THE PRESS! *RIGHT?!*

WHAT

H-
HOLY...
HOLY
SHIT!!
"NO!!"
!

DON'T *PANIC!*

FLY *STRAIGHT!* NO SUDDEN *MANEUVERS!*

YES... SIR!

DON'T *PROVOKE* IT!!

S-SIR!

WHAT *IS IT?* A *ROBOT* ...?

AN *ANGEL* ...?

HUH ...?

WHIT

M-MISTER TAMA!!!

I FEEL SO... DISCON-NECTED...

"DOESN'T AIR RESISTANCE AFFECT IT? BUT IT LOOKS SO LIGHT...

"WE'RE DOING FOUR HUNDRED KNOTS-- HOW DOES IT KEEP UP...?"

IT... TALKS?

WHAT

TAK

TAK
T-TAK
TAK-TAK

MORSE CODE!

.....
.....!

L-E-T-S
P-L-A-Y

WHAT

FWAP

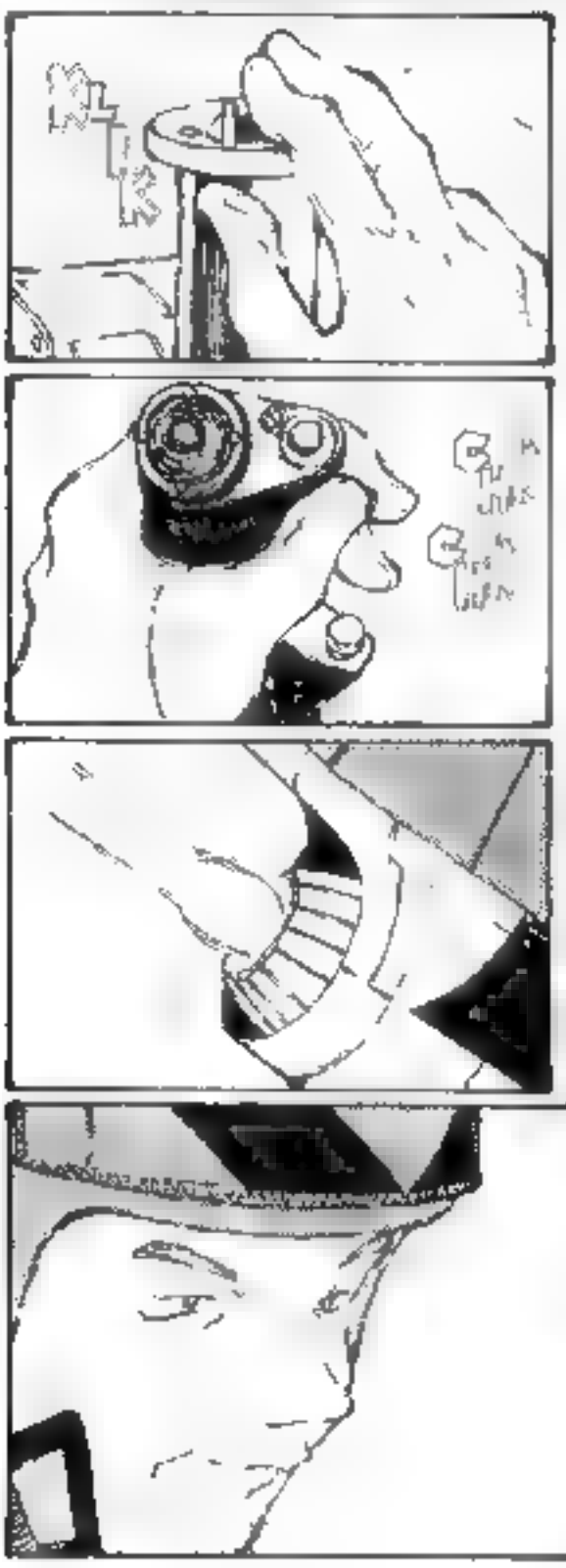
ZUSHHH

"WHAT THE HELL ...?

"!! AN M61 VULCAN!"

ONO! DISENGAGE!!

BREAK RIGHT AND DIVE!! FULL AFTER-BURNER!



FWHTT

SHREEEEE

WHERE THE HELL DID IT GET THAT CANNON?! DOES IT HAVE LIVE *AMMO?*

POSI-TION, TWO!

RIGHT BEHIND YOU, FIVE O' CLOCK, TWO MILES!

MACH 1.8... HOPE THAT DOES IT.

BUT... I HAVE THIS...*BAD FEELING.*

AH?!

ONO! IT'S *AHEAD* OF US!

WHAT?! NO *WAY!*

TAKE YOUR ESCAPE WINDOW! *NOW!!*

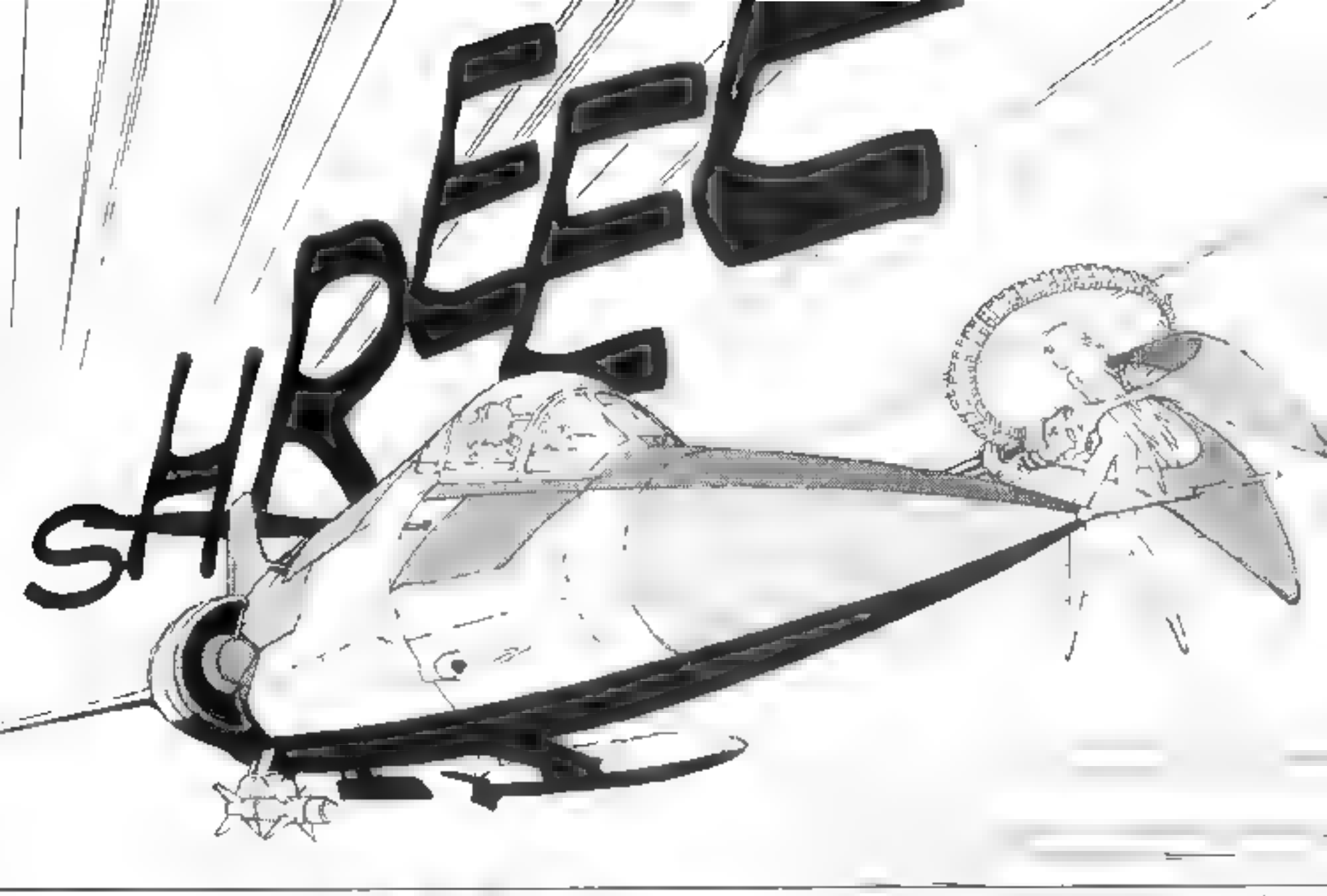
YOKOTA CONTROL! THIS IS *AVIS-C* SQUAW-KING *NINE ZERO FIVE!*

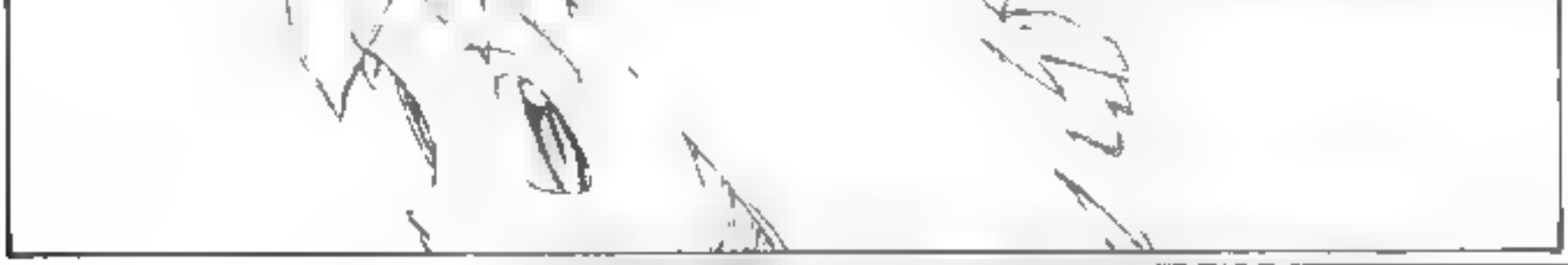
UNDER ATTACK BY *UNIDENTIFIED BANDIT,* REQUESTING BACKUP FROM EAGLE FLIGHT!!

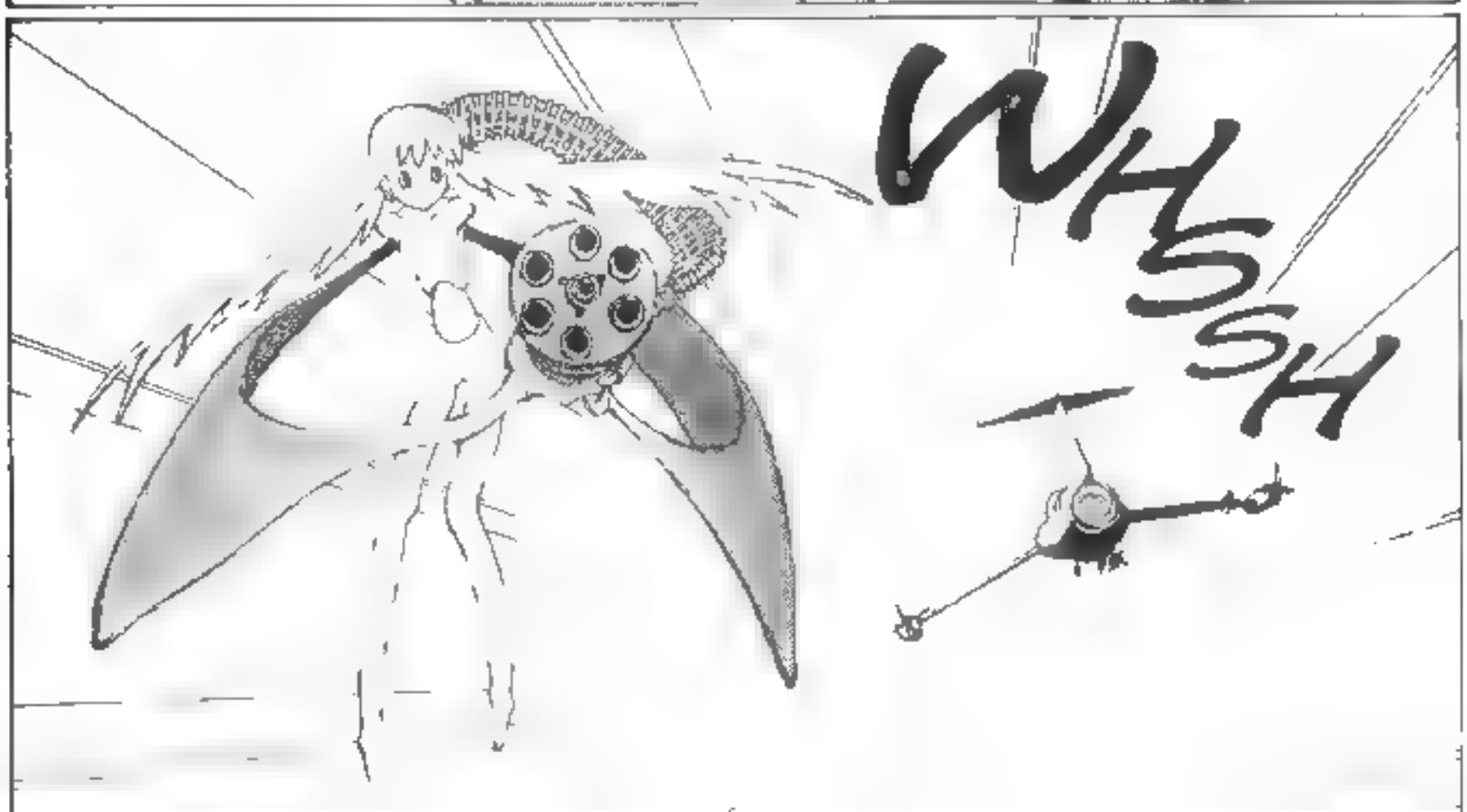
VR

TTT-

ITTT


SHREE




WHSSH

SPAK
SPAK
SPAK

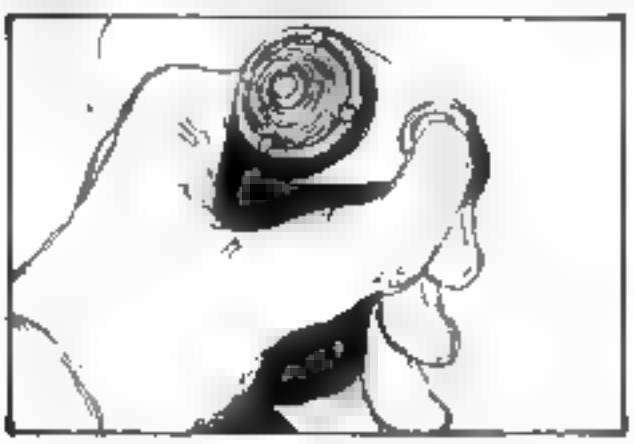
SHIT!!

EJECT
EJECT
EJECT!!

BROOM

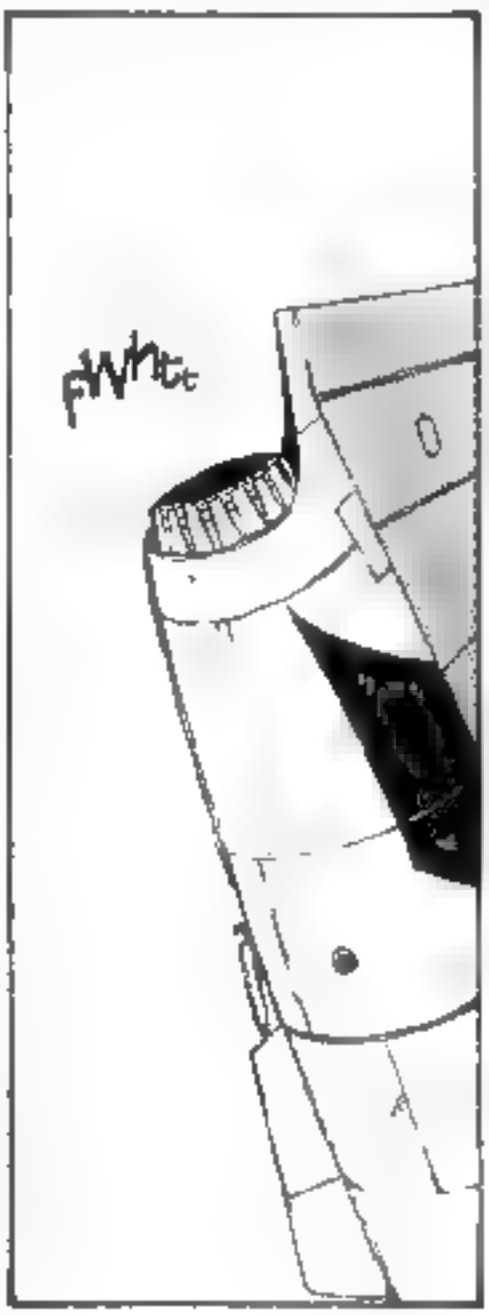
WHROOM

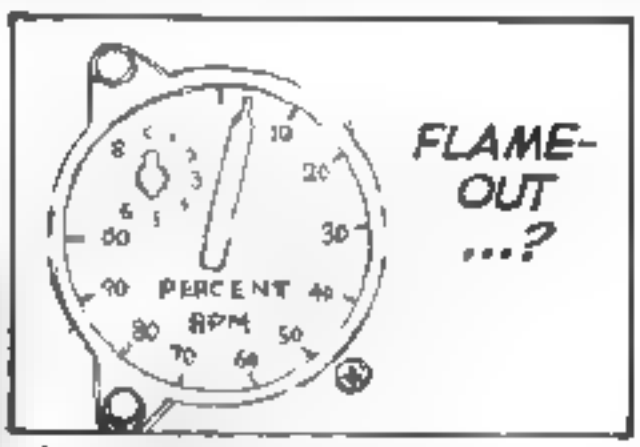
ONO!!



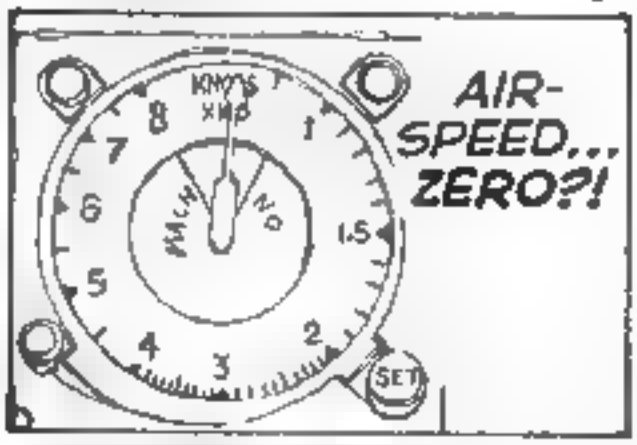
SHAKK

AH ...?





FLAME-OUT ...?



AIR-SPEED... ZERO?!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

THE AIR AROUND ME... IT'S NOT MOVING?!

H-HOW ...?

"NO TIME FOR A HELMET FIRE, TAMAI! FLAT SPIN RECOVERY, THEN RESTART!"

SHH

FINALLY-- OUT OF THAT DEAD AIR SPACE!

FORGET THE BOGEY... RUN THE CHECKLIST...

FWT

VREEEE

BOMF

FLASH

DAMMIT, ONO!! WHERE'S YOUR CHUTE ...?!

SHREE

WHSHH

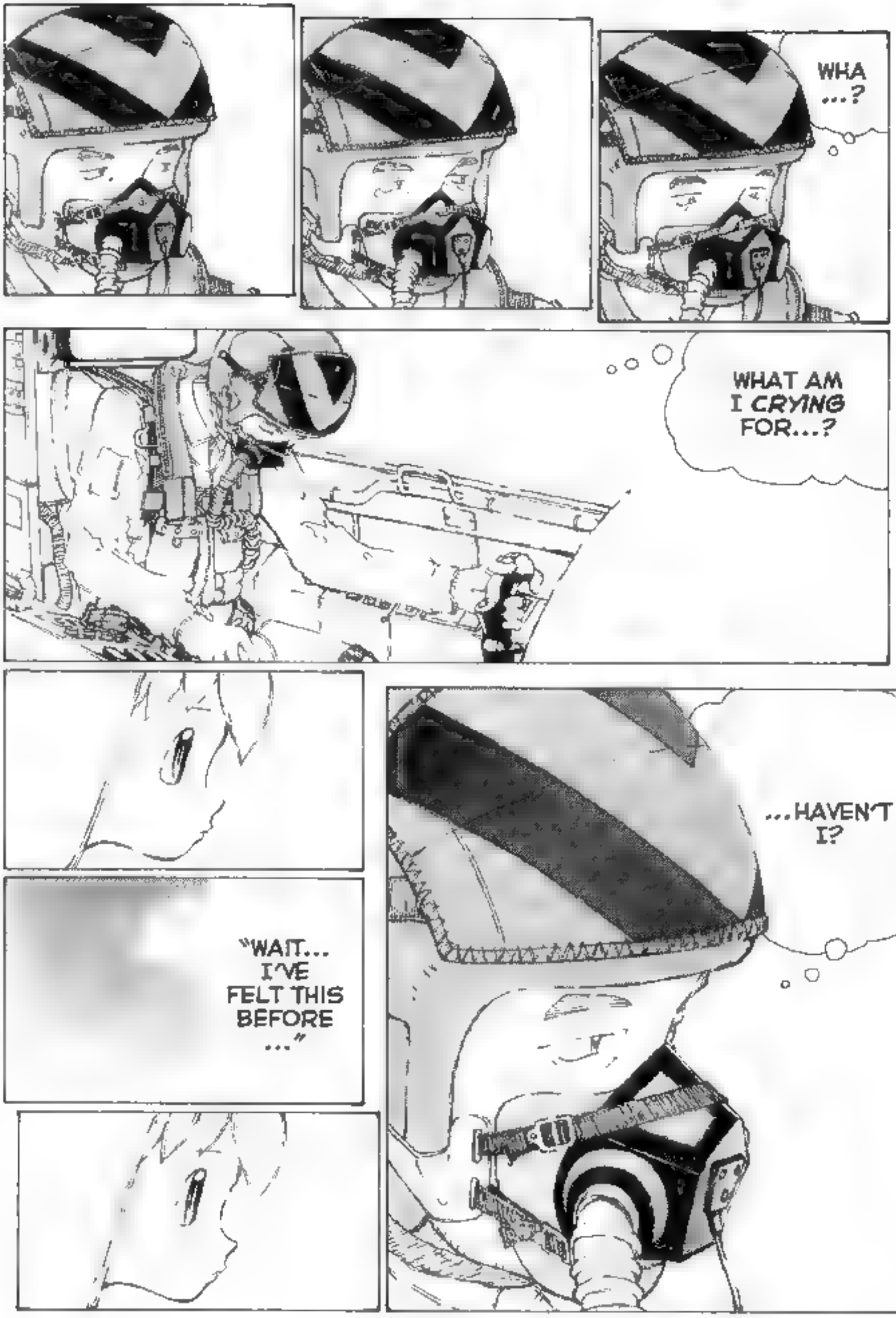
"SO... WHAT TO DO? OBVIOUSLY I CAN'T OUTRUN IT, EVEN IF I GO CLEAN AND PUNCH IT UP TO MACH 2.2.

"NOTHING BUT TRAINING WEAPONS, SO I'M UNARMED."

SITUATION AWARENESS, TAMAI! WHERE IS IT...?

AH.

NOT EVEN TRYING HARD...


WHA ...?
WHAT AM I CRYING FOR...?
"WAIT... I'VE FELT THIS BEFORE ..."
...HAVEN'T I?

"SO
BEAUTIFUL..."

WHFFF

DAMMIT, TAMAI! WAKE UP!!

COMING BACK, ARE YOU? LOOKS LIKE IT.

"IN THAT CASE, I BETTER ACT FIRST, BEFORE I LOSE SIGHT OF YOU."

I DO HAVE ONE WEAPON ...!

WHT

FWHOOSH

FWHTT

WHS

SHHH

"THE LEADING EDGE OF A STARFIGHTER'S WING IS **RAZOR SHARP...**"

...SO IF I CAN *HIT IT*...

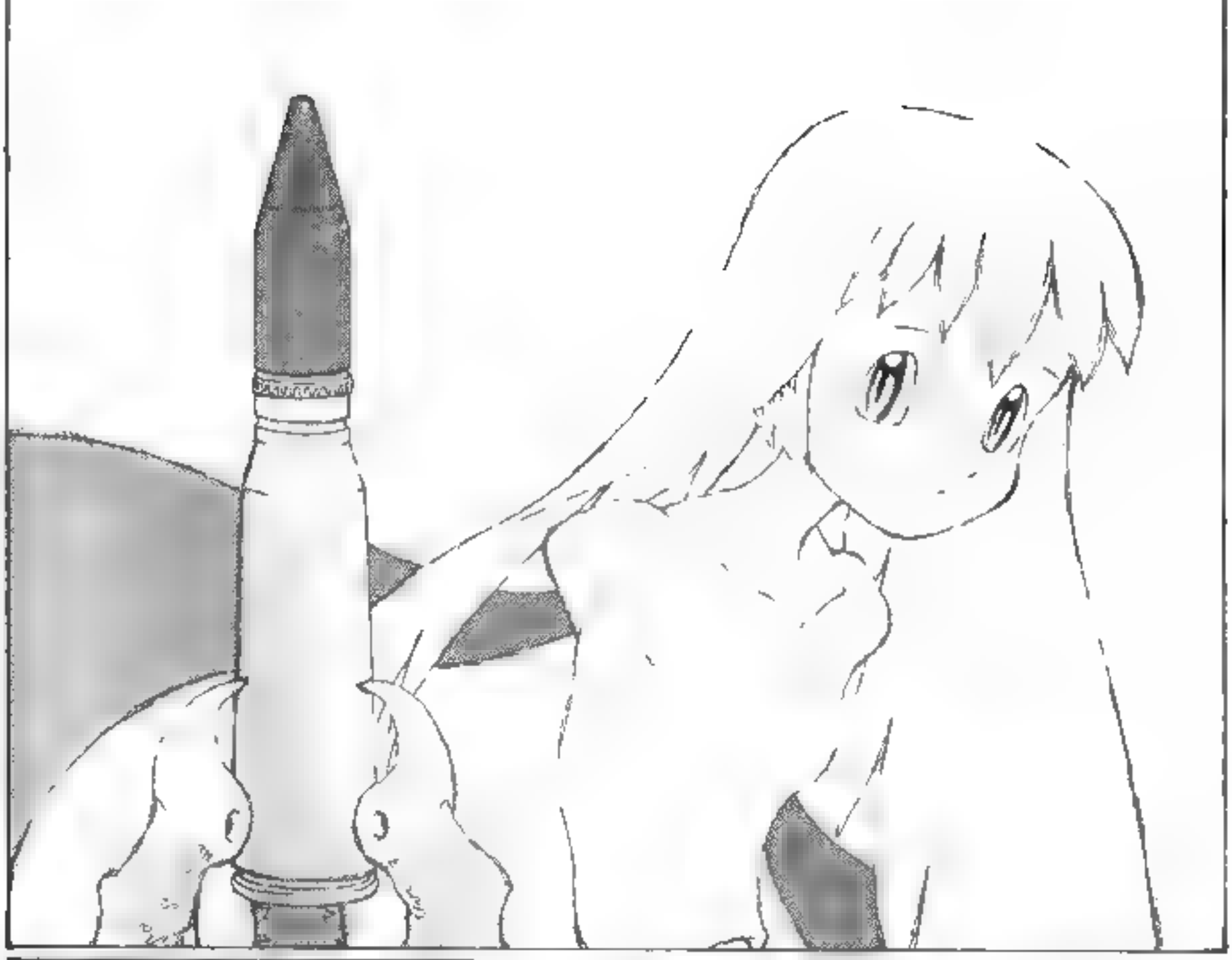
WHACK

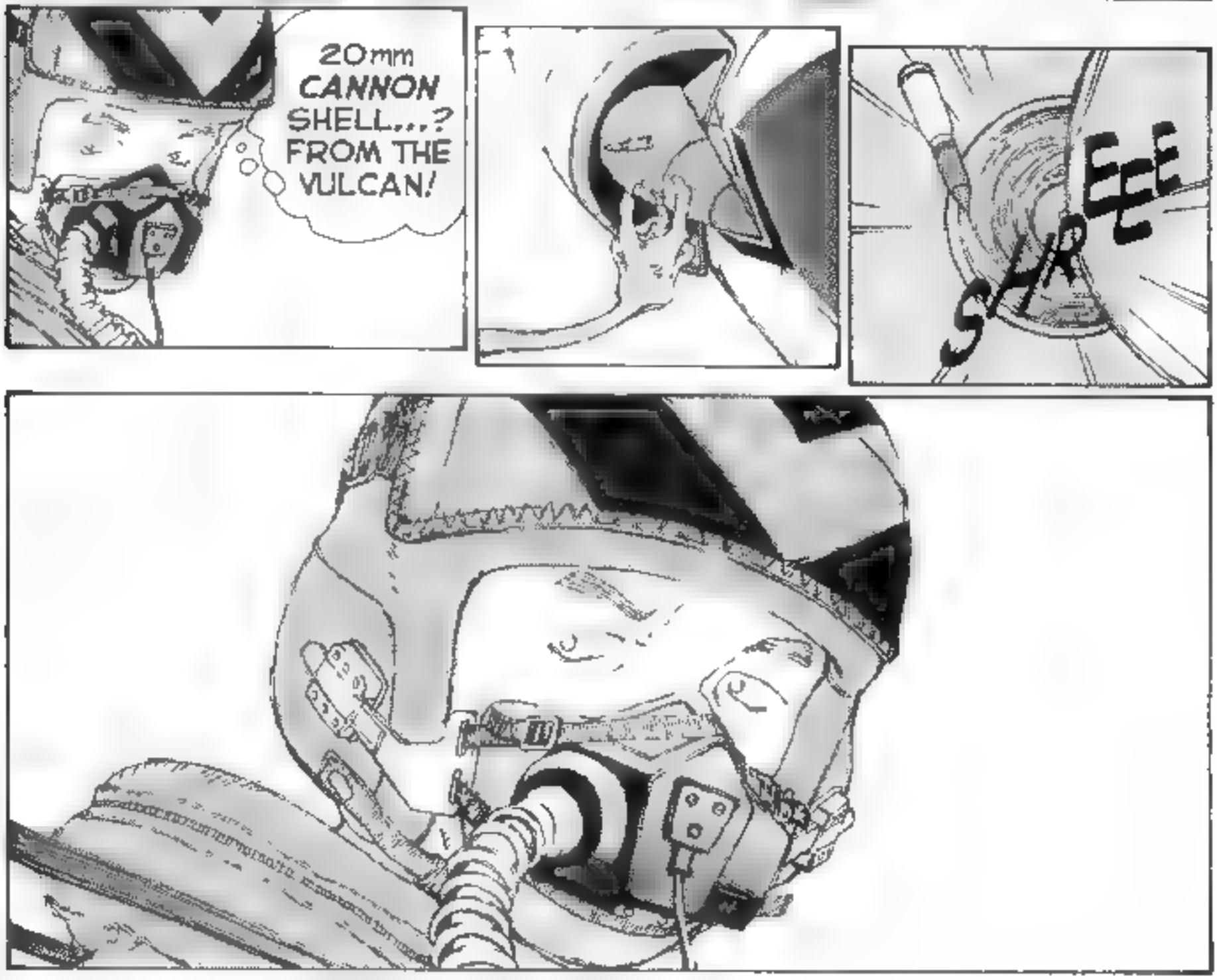
FWOOSH

...?

DAMN IT!!

SLRRRRKKK




20mm CANNON SHELL...? FROM THE VULCAN!
SHREEE

BK
BOOM

"SHIINA..."

COME ON! QUIET DOWN, EVERYONE. SIT!

RIGHT. FIRST I'LL COLLECT YOUR SUMMER VACATION HOME-WORK.

BRING YOUR PAINTINGS TO THE FRONT.

UH-OH...

WHAT? YOU LEFT IT ON THE *ISLAND?*

HEH, HEH... *DOPE!*

BUT YOU *DID* DO IT ...?

WELL, UM...PART OF IT A BIT SORTA.

I BET SHE LEFT IT ON *PURPOSE!*

YOU BE QUIET, TAKAYA.

YEAH. *GUYS* ARE SUPPOSED TO BE STRONG... AND *SILENT.*

OH, *YEAH?!* IF YOU WEREN'T SO *DUMB* ALL THE TIME I WOULDN'T *HAVE* TO SAY ANYTHING!!

HAH! AS IF *YOU* DID ANYTHING THIS SUMMER EXCEPT GET UP FOR MORNING EXERCISE!!

TOO! AT LEAST I DID THAT *DRAWING!*

OOH, YES! HOW *NICE* TO HAVE TWO ARTISTICALLY TALENTED *SISTERS!*

HEY, TAKASHI. C'MERE A SEC.

I DRAW *WAY* BETTER'N MY SISTERS!

WHAT?! I DREW IT *MYSELF!!*

THERE THEY GO AGAIN..

LEMME SEE... OOH, SUCH *CUTE* LITTLE FLOWERS!

I... UH... A CRAZY *TOMBOY* LIKE YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND!

ARE YOU *SURE* YOU'RE A GUY? MAYBE THERE'S JUST THREE *GIRLS* IN YOUR FAMILY!!

ARG. I CAN NEVER OUT TALK HER.

WHY *YOU* --!!

YOU'RE *SERIOUSLY* PUSHING YOUR LU--

'SCUSE ME, SHIINA.

I THINK WE BETTER GO TO THE STAFF ROOM.

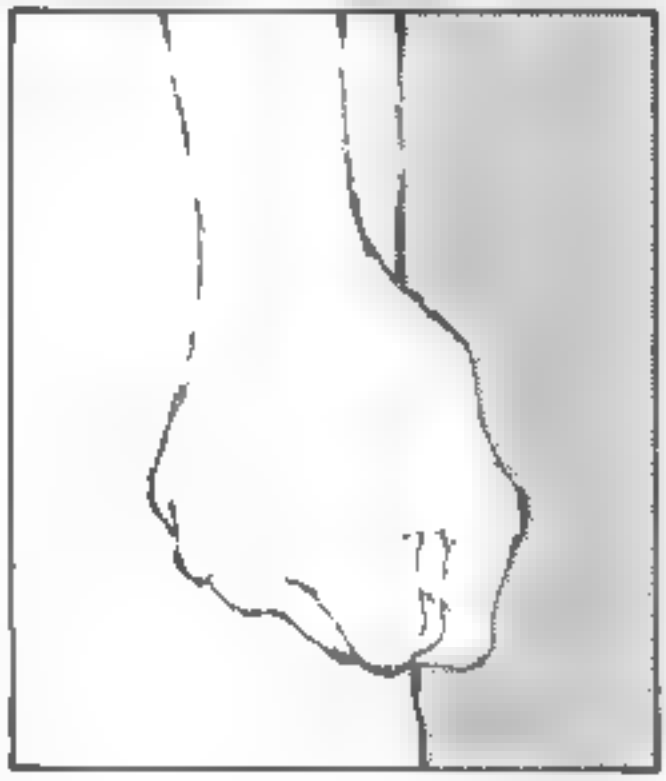
HAW HAW HAW!! *GOTCHA*, SHIINA!

YOUR ASS IS GRASS, NOW!!

BLEUGH!

COME ON, SHIINA.

DADDY'S...



DADDY'S... *MISSING?*

SHIINA...

LOOK... THAT'S ALL THEY--

IT'S... ....

IT'S NOT TRUE!!

MY DAD WOULD *NEVER* CRASH HIS *PLANE!*

NEVER
NEVER
NEVER!!

!!

HOSHI-
MARU
AND
I--

--WE'RE
GONNA
GO FIND
DADDY
...!

HUH
...?

OH...

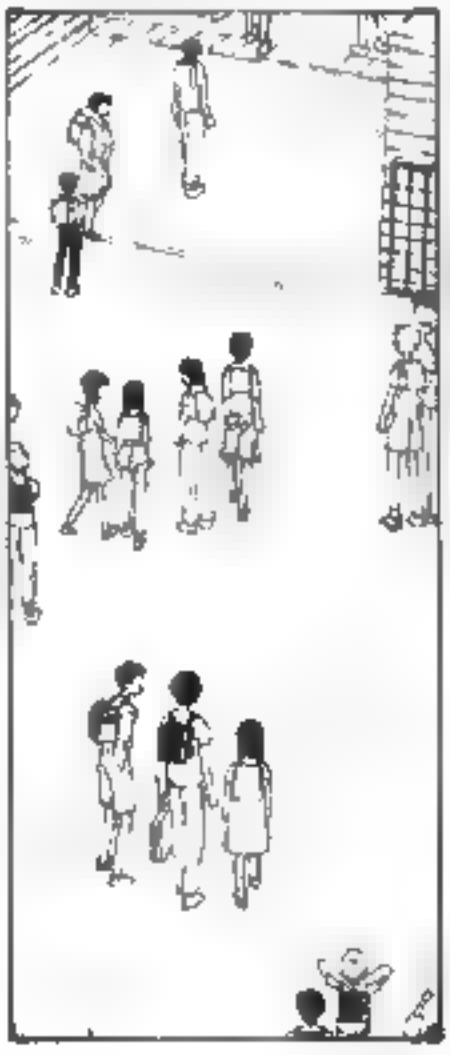
SHINA
...?
WAIT!!

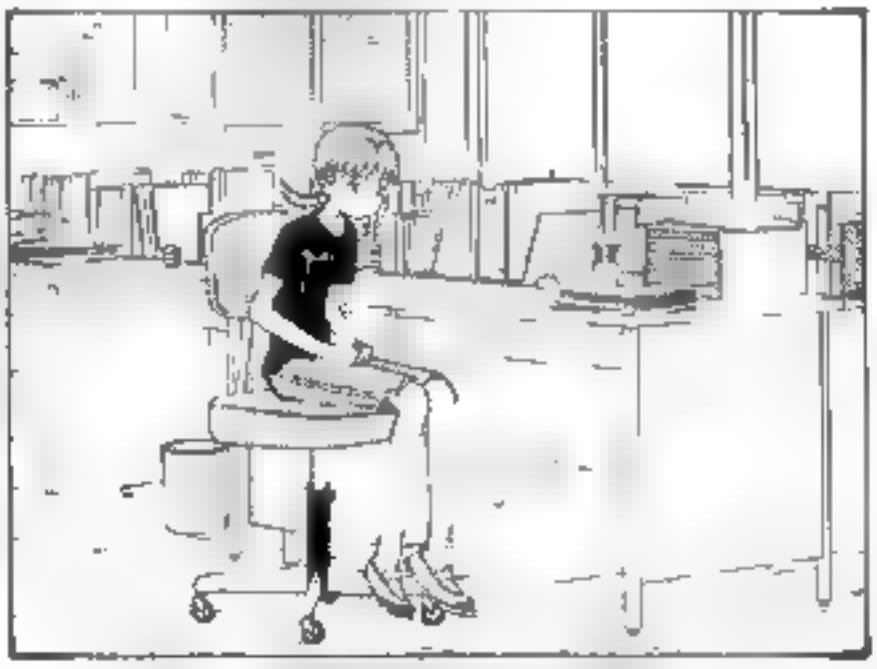
WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?!

WHERE
...?!

WH... WHERE IS HE?

WHERE'S MY DADDY...





IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR LUNCH. HUNGRY?

YOU WANT ANY-THING?

BREEEEP

IT'S FOR YOU.

H-HELLO ...? I'M SHIINA...

OH, MISTER SUZUKI ...!

UH-HUH.

UH-HUH.

N-NO. I'M OKAY. YEAH. *THANKS*, MISTER SUZUKI. BYE-BYE.

ANY... *NEWS?*

NOTHING YET. BUT...

...THE *SDF* AND THE COAST GUARD ARE OUT LOOKING FOR HIM.

UM...MR. SUMINO? YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND EAT.

I'M NOT HUNGRY.

THAT'S... OKAY. I'M NOT EITHER. I--

GURGLE

HEH. HEH.

WELL, OKAY THEN. THANKS.

YOU'RE WELCOME.

SHIINA...

WH-
WHO *IS*
IT?

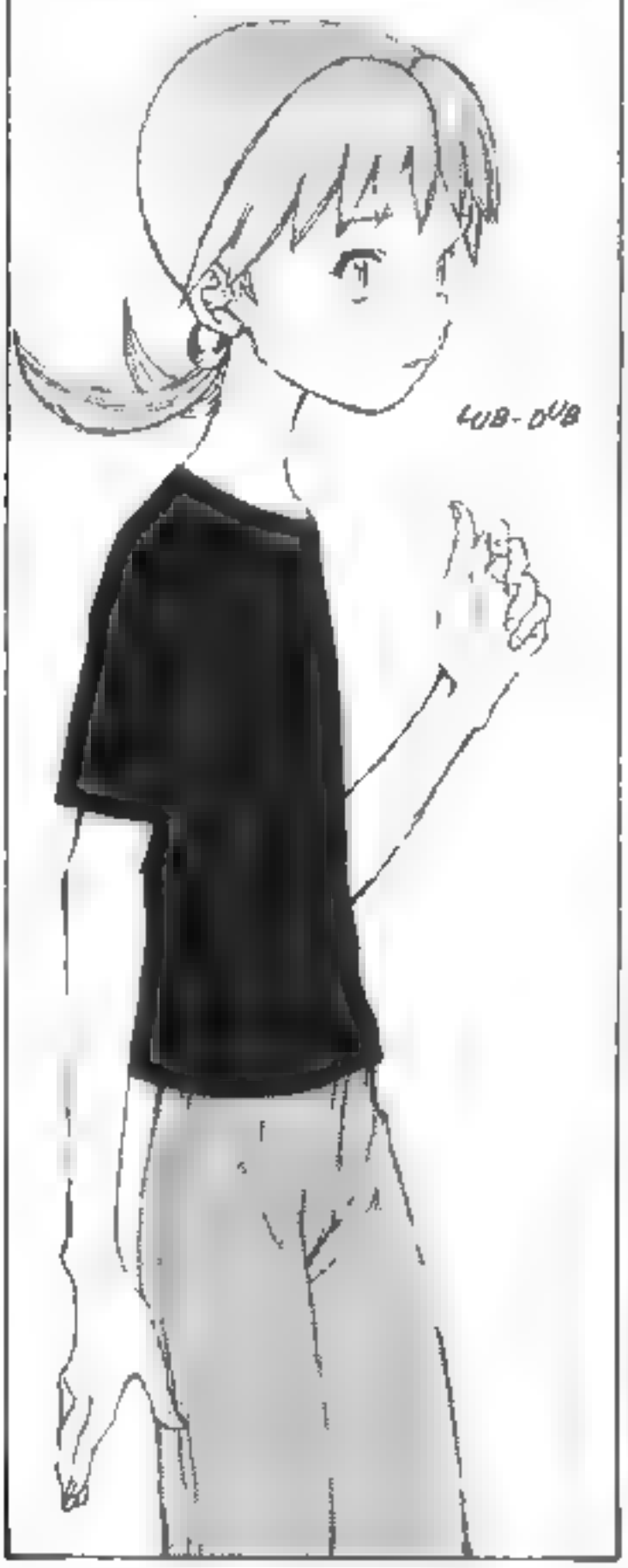
HOSHI-
MARU?

HOSHI-
MARU...

LUB-DUB...

LUB-DUB...

THAT'S...



...DADDY'S HEARTBEAT?!

HE...
HE'S
ALIVE!

LUB-DUB...

SHADOWS OF THE PAST

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Scanned : Jinchi
Edited : Finnpest

B-BREEP!

HELLO!

RES-TAURANT *MUTSU*...

OH, HI, SHIINA.

AKIRA ...? YEAH, SHE'S HOME.

SORRY ABOUT THE WAY SHE'S BEEN ACTING.

YEAH... WELL, SHE'S JUST THAT SORT OF K.D. I HOPE YOU'LL STAY FRIENDS, ANYWAY.

SURE, NO PROBLEM. I CAN TRANSFER YOU. HANG ON A SEC.

KLIK

AKIRA, IT'S FOR YOU. IT'S SHIINA AGAIN.

HUH? WHY NOT?!

COME ON-- SHE'S BEEN CALLING FOR DAYS AND YOU--

.....

LOOK, AKIRA... IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVE A LOT OF KIDS WANTING TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU. YOU SHOULD BE--

HUH.

SHE HUNG UP

HI, SH.INA ...?

SORRY, BUT SHE'S STILL... YEAH.

I'LL TRY TALKING TO HER AGAIN.

SO DON'T GIVE UP YET, OKAY?

YEAH. THANKS. SORRY...

AKIRA ...?

LOOK...I DON'T CARE SO MUCH IF YOU SKIP SCHOOL, BUT...YOU SHOULD TRY TO BE NICE TO YOUR FRIENDS.

OKAY, WHATEVER. BY THE WAY, SOME BOY DROPPED OFF AN ENVELOPE FOR YOU.

LOOKS LIKE IT'S FROM SCHOOL... MAYBE HOMEWORK OR SOMETHING.

I'LL UH... JUST LEAVE IT HERE.

TOK

WELL, WHAT A SUR-PRISE.

I SURE DIDN'T EXPECT *YOU.*

OH, REALLY ...?

IT ISN'T *THAT* STRANGE, IS IT?

WE *ARE* MARRIED... AFTER ALL.

HA, HA... IF YOU SAY SO.

A CIGA-RETTE ...?

YEAH. NO SMOKING IN THE HOSPITAL, HUH?

WHEN DID YOU START *SMOKING*, SHUNJI?

HUH?

THAT WAS TEN YEARS AGO.

WAY BACK WHEN...

...YOU'D ALWAYS GIVE ME HELL ABOUT MY SMOKING.

NOW I SMOKE, TOO.

SO... WHAT IS IT?

SOMEHOW I DOUBT YOU CAME TO CHEER ME UP.

TO SEE ME LYING IN BED HELPLESS, MAYBE. *THAT* I COULD BELIEVE.

HMPH. THANKS FOR MAKING THINGS EASY.

OKAY. TELL ME...

...*EXACTLY* WHAT HAPPENED.

IS THIS FOR YOUR JOB?

LOOK AT IT AS A HEARTFELT REQUEST... FROM THE WOMAN WHO *LOVES YOU.*

HEH...

BWA HAW HAW HAW!!

AS IF I'M GOING TO CARE ABOUT *THAT* AFTER ALL THESE YEARS!

HEH HEH HEH!

!!

APPAR-ENTLY *PARTS* OF YOU STILL DO.

YOU NEVER DID PLAY FAIR, MISONO.

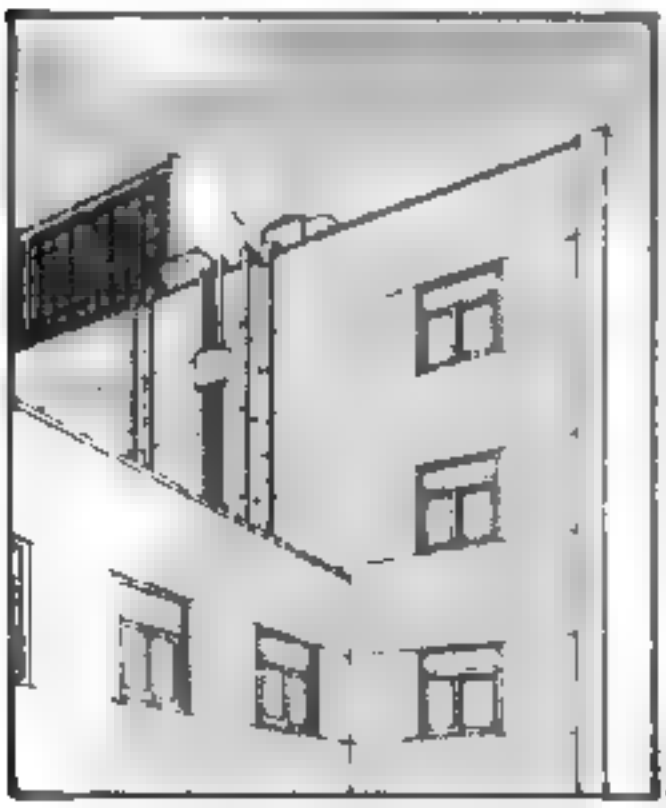
YOU'RE MAKING IT SO...

...SO HARD TO LIE.

AND SO... *TELL* ME.

TELL ME *EVERY-THING.*

KLIK



AN *ANGEL* ...?

AND... WHAT'S A "VULCAN" ...?

IT'S A KIND OF VERY FAST MACHINE GUN. STANDARD EQUIPMENT ON MOST FIGHTERS.

ARE YOU STILL GOOD AT DRAWING? DRAW THAT CREATURE FOR ME.

NOW?

OF COURSE.

WORDS HAVE MEANINGS THAT BIND YOU TO ESTABLISHED IMAGES.

THAT CAN BE MIS-LEAD.NG.

THIS IS THE *SECOND* TIME...

...I'VE ENCOUNTERED SOMETHING THIS STRANGE.

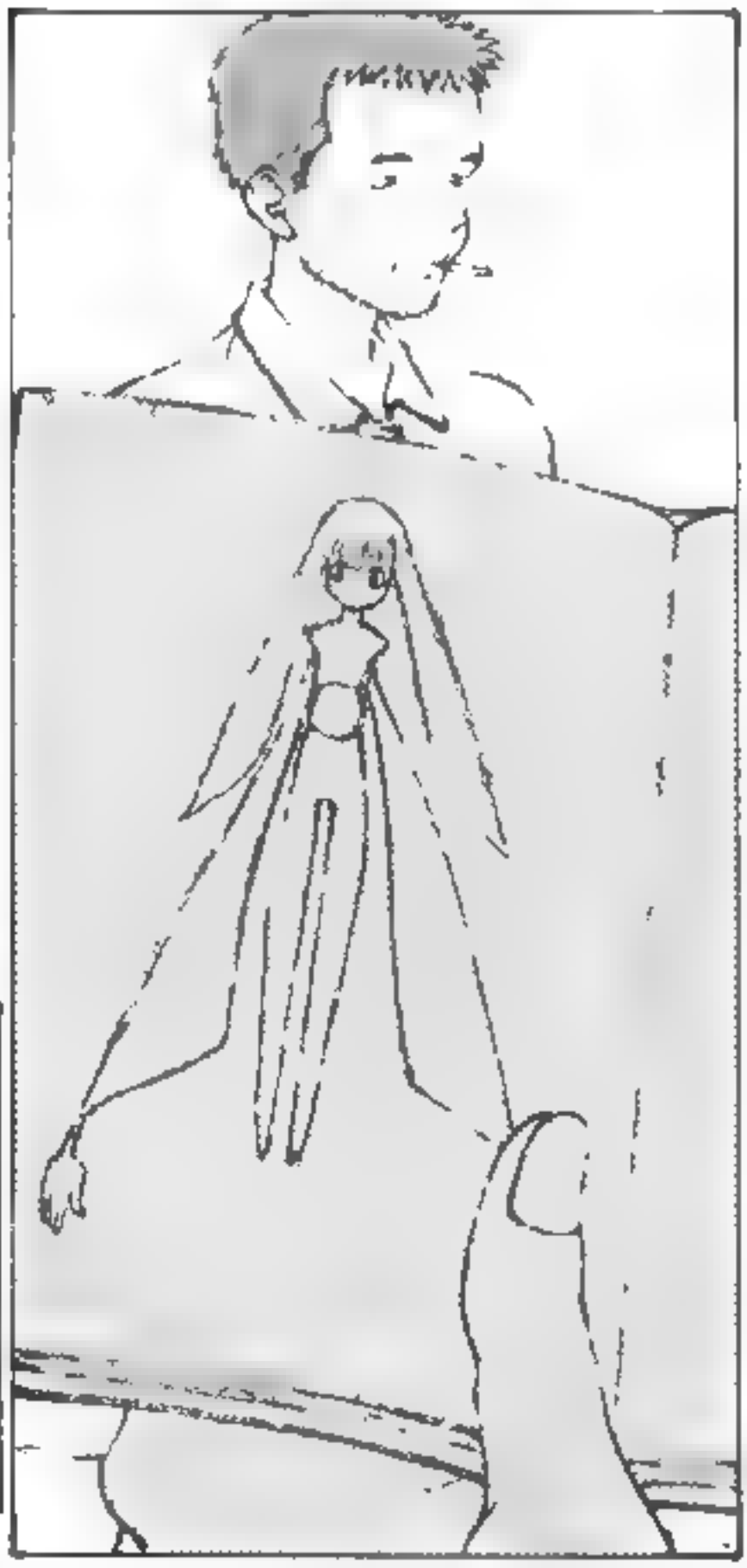
BUT THAT FIRST TIME... YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE ME.

NOW THAT *REALLY* WAS *AGES* AGO!

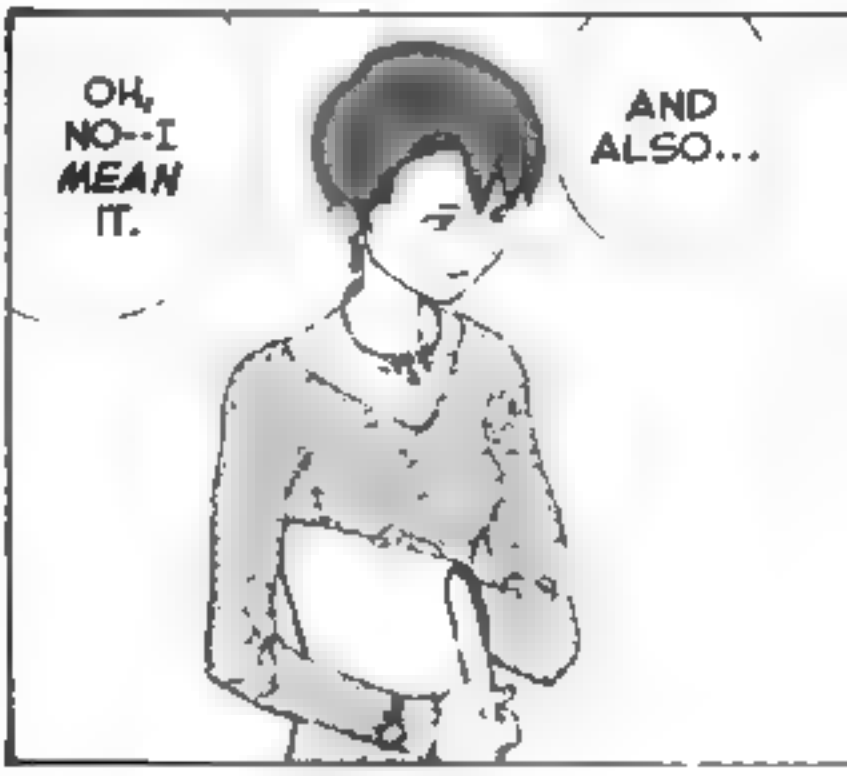
SO...
HOW MUCH HAVE YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT THESE THINGS?

I CAN'T TELL YOU, OF COURSE.
NO FAIR!

TRUST ME-- IT'S FOR YOUR OWN SAKE.



EXCELLENT. THANKS. I REALLY *AM* GLAD YOU WEREN'T HURT.
BECAUSE YOU COULD GET SOME NEW IN-FORMATION FROM ME?


OH, NO--I *MEAN* IT.
AND ALSO...

...FOR *HER.*

A MORE FORMAL INVESTIGATOR WILL COME BY LATER. BEHAVE YOURSELF-- PLEASE?

ONE OF YOUR GANG ...?

OOH, SCARY.

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY.

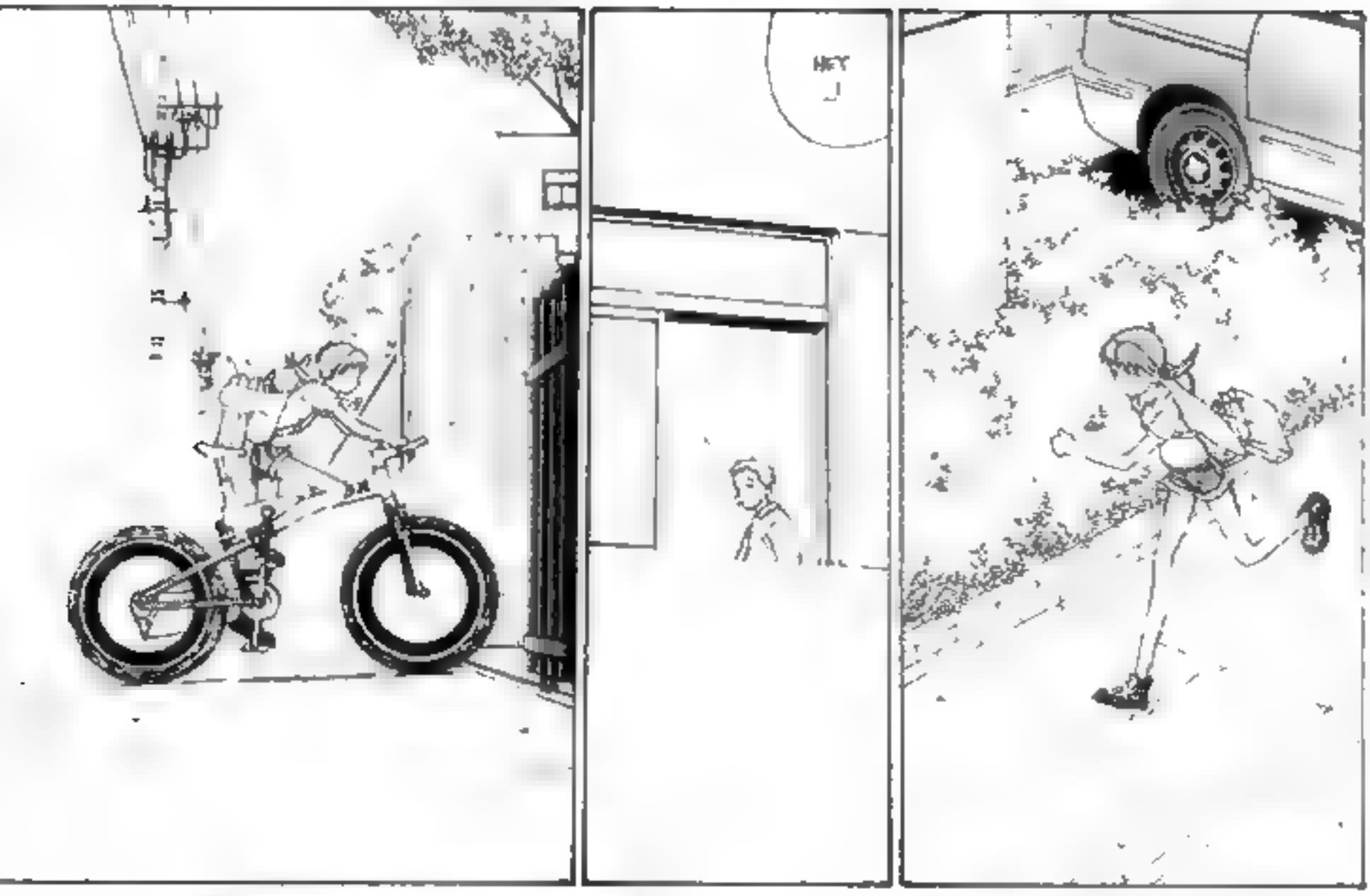
AND DON'T TELL THE MEDIA THE TRUTH ABOUT *ANYTHING.*

BULLSHIT THEM *AGAIN,* HUH?

WE'LL LOOK LIKE IDIOTS.

SORRY ABOUT THAT.

BY THE WAY...
TOO BAD ABOUT YOUR FRIEND.
KCHAK


HEY
!

HI THERE!
DON'T RUN IN THE HALLS, DEAR!
'KAY! SORRY!
LOOK--I BROUGHT YOUR SWEATER!!
TOLD YA I WOULDN'T FORGET!
WHAM

SHIINA... COOL YOUR JETS A BIT, OKAY? DON'T FORGET THIS IS A *HOSPITAL.*

HOW WAS SCHOOL? YOU *DID* GO, DIDN'T YOU...?

HEY... WAS SOME-ONE HERE?

YEAH. SOMEONE... FROM WORK.

MMM... PRETTY FLOWERS.

YEAH.

KCHAK

SHUNJI ...? ARE YOU AWAKE?

PHEW.

I CAN'T *STAND* THE MEDIA.

GODDAMN PARASITES.

HEY, BOSS!

YO, SHIINA.

I'M REAL SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.

I TELL YA, TAMAI, IT'S A REAL HASSLE WITHOUT YOU.

LOTTA STUFF ONLY YOU CAN DO...*PILES* OF CRAZY WORK.

IN THAT CASE... SHOULD YOU REALLY BE HERE?

THANKS

JUST TAKING A SANITY BREAK.

THIS IS ABOUT THE ONLY PLACE I CAN RELAX.

IT'S LIKE... HEAVEN.

IT WAS AN ANGEL, WASN'T IT?

HARD NOT TELLING THE TRUTH... HMM?

IF THE SUITS WANT MOTOKI TO TAKE THE HEAT, WELL...

...WHAT DO YOU DO?

BUT MY PILOTS AND MECHANICS BEING CALLED INCOMPETENT BOZOS...

...THAT I CAN'T STAND.

POOR ONO... .....

HOW CAN HE REST IN PEACE?

B-
BOSS
...?

SHHH!!

I BET SHE HASN'T GOTTEN A GOOD REST FOR TWO WEEKS NOW.

AND SHE'S NOT AS YOUNG AS SHE USED TO BE

WELL, NO TIME TO BE NODDING OFF.

HEY, I'M NOT MUCH OLDER THAN YOU!

AH... YOU WERE AWAKE?!

I'VE GOT TO GO PREPARE FOR THE WAKE.

SAY, SHIINA... ARE YOU COMING TO ONO'S WAKE?

HE WAS ALWAYS NICE TO YOU, WASN'T HE?

Y... YES.

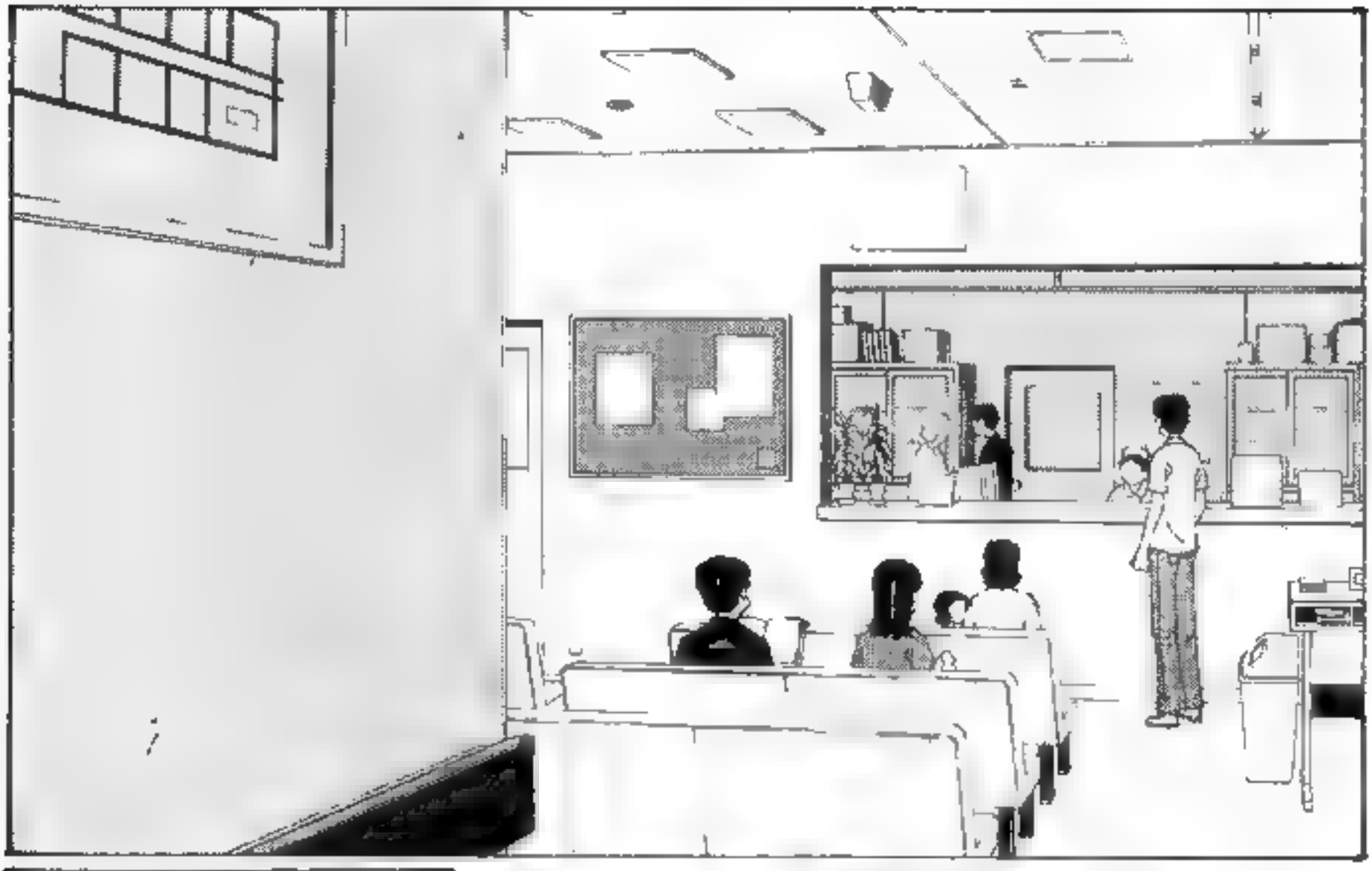
YOU CAN JUST COME AS YOU ARE.

I'LL SEND SUZUKI OVER FOR YOU LATER.

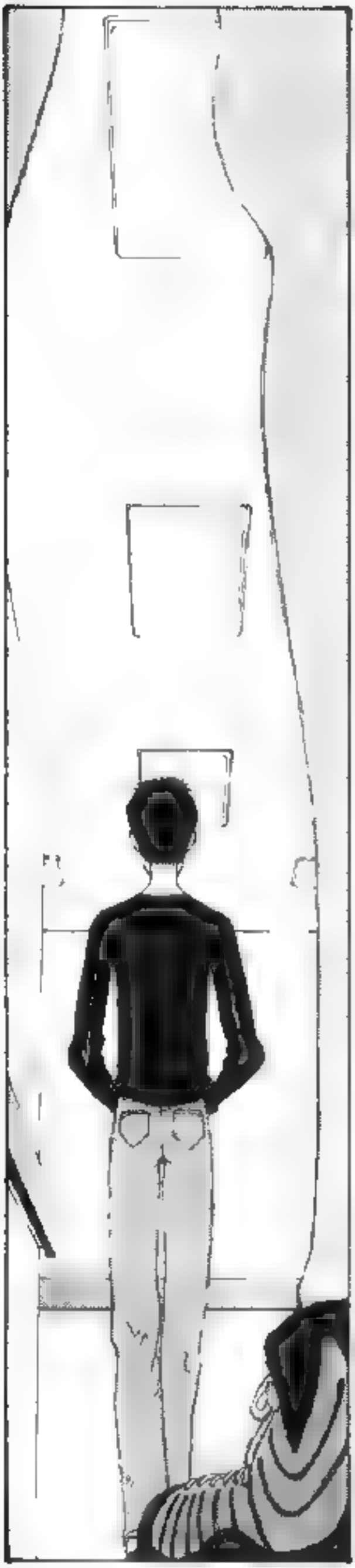
SHUNJI, YOU'D BETTER STAY AWAY FROM ONO'S HOUSE FOR A WHILE AFTER YOU GET OUT.

DAMN PLACE IS *CRAWLING* WITH JOUR-NALISTS.

I'VE ALREADY TALKED TO HIS WIFE-- SHE UNDER-STANDS.



I'M GLAD YOUR FATHER WAS OKAY.



THAT GUY... .....

WHO IS HE ...?

DO YOU REMEMBER, HOSHIMARU?

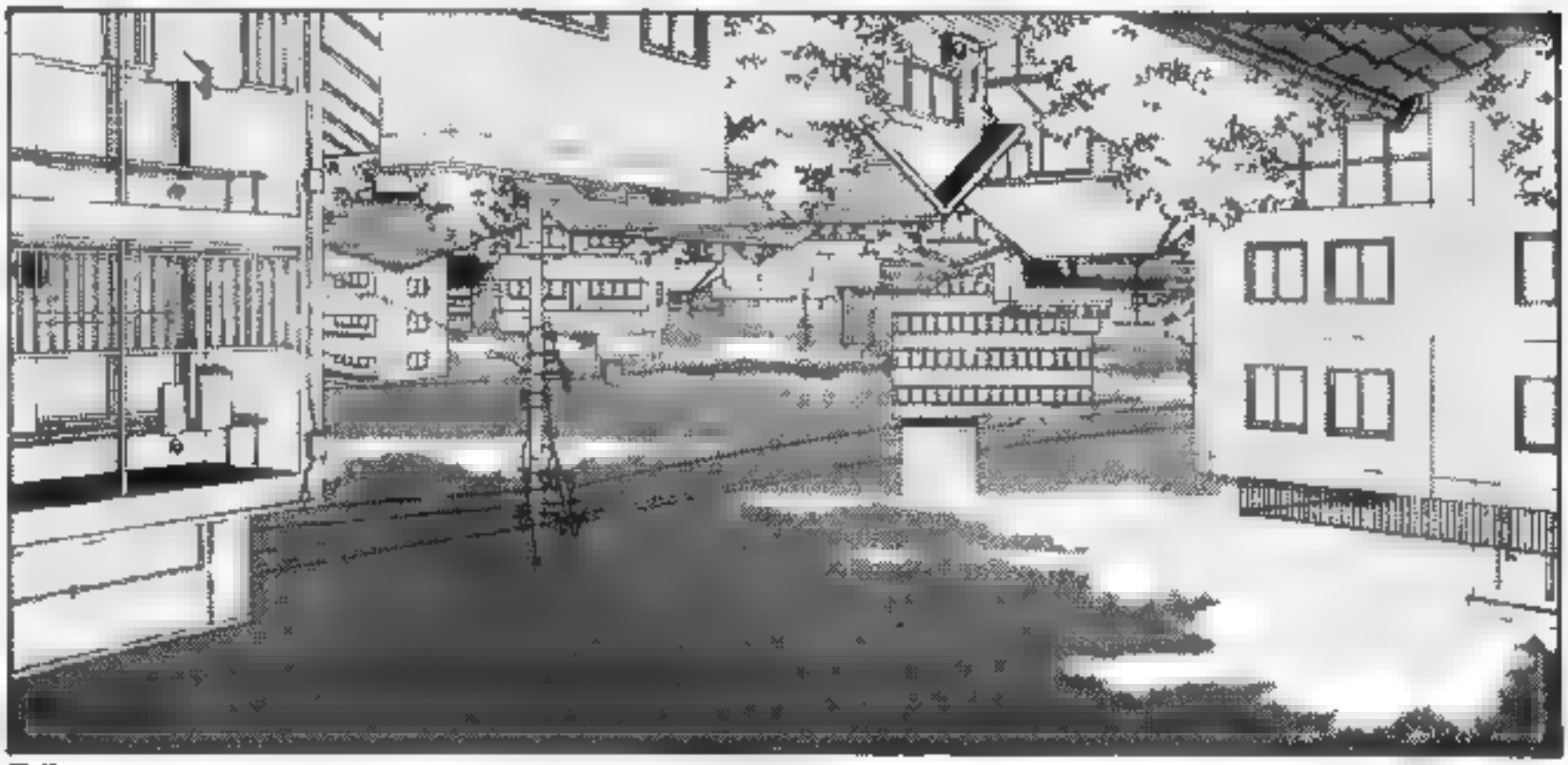
I KNOW I'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE..

FLRCCH

AAAAA!!!

↑2病棟

THAT'S IT!!



¡¡WIH

Yyey
Yttty
Yyey

SHI NA, DEAR? DON'T FORGET...

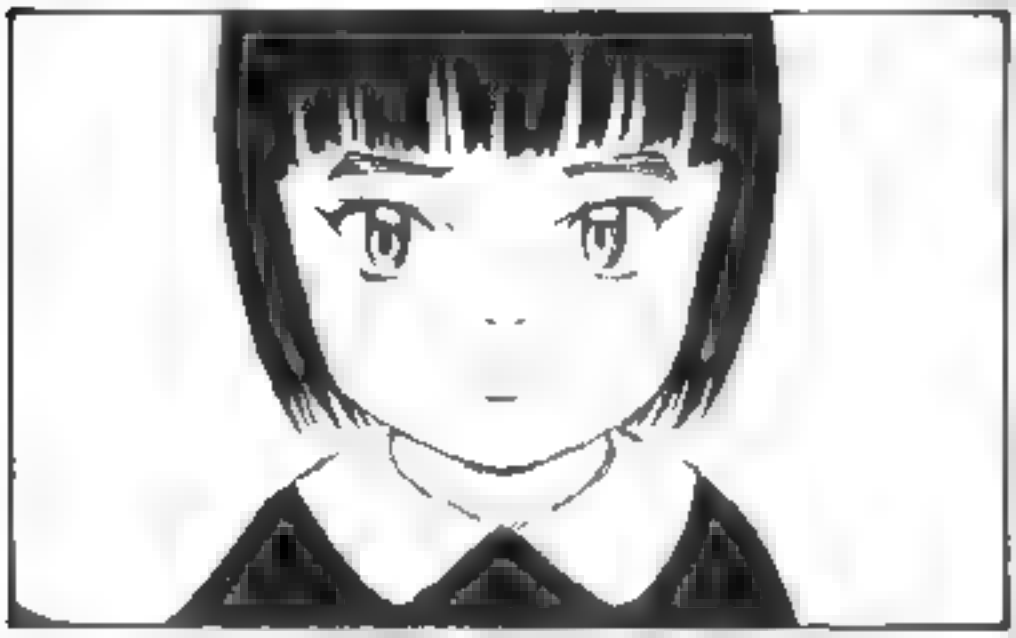
...TO BURN SOME NCENSE FOR HIM, OKAY?

YOU KNOW HOW ...?

JUNO

THEN LET'S GO IN TOGETHER.

JUST DO WHAT I DO.



IT MUST HAVE BEEN A HARD DAY FOR YOU.

ARE YOU TIRED, SHI NA ...?

NO... I'M OKAY.

WANT TO STAY AT OUR PLACE TONIGHT?

YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME, YOU KNOW.

MM.

THANKS, BUT I'VE GOT SCHOOL TOMORROW, SO..

OH, RIGHT.

UM...

MISTER SUZUKI ...?

YES...?

WHY DO PEOPLE...

...DIE?

"WHY"...? I WONDER. I REALLY DON'T KNOW.

NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT IT, I GUESS.

I SHOULD, THOUGH, SHOULDN'T I? I'VE JUST LOST TWO GOOD FRIENDS.

BUT... SOMEHOW... IT'S JUST *NUMBED* ME.

IF...

IF WE'RE JUST GOING TO DIE...

...WHY ARE WE EVEN *BORN?*

JUST CALL IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, SHINA.

THANKS, MISTER SUZUKI. TAKE CARE.

VRMBBB

AH...?!

?! WH--WHO'S THERE?

IT... IT'S ME, SHINA...

AKIRA...?!

WOW, I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU! I CALLED YOU A LOT, BUT...

...YOU...
?!?

SHIINA...

SHIINA,
I...I
NEED YOUR
HELP!

HELP ...?

WITH WHAT?

A BOY C-CAME TO MY HOUSE TODAY...

AND AND HE...

H-HE LEFT...

...TH-THIS...!

Say Hi
to Ensof
and
Hosnimaru
for me.

THE WEIGHT OF A SCREAM

#Manga Sketchbook@WONDERnet

Scanned · Jinchi
Edited · Finnpest

COME ON IN.

TH .. THANKS, SHINA.

HOSHIMARU, OPEN THE WINDOW.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE BEEN OVER ISN'T IT, AKIRA?

SHINA ...?

WERE YOU... DID YOU GO...

YES.
DIDN'T YOU SEE ME ON TV?
THERE WERE A BUNCH OF CAMERA CREWS THERE.

THAT BOY WITH THE KNIFE.

M-MAYBE... HE'S STILL ALIVE...?

SO YOU DIDN'T ACTUALLY *SEE* WHO BROUGHT THIS?

N...NO.

DID YOUR MOM OR DAD SEE HIM?

THEY SA D H-HE WAS ABOUT MY AGE.

"WEIRD" HAIR...GOOD LOOKING... NOT IN A SCHOOL UNIFORM...

SULP?

WH-WHO *ELSE* WOULD KNOW THEIR NAMES...?

Say hi to Ginsof and Hashimaru for me ♪

IT M-*MUST* BE HIM.

.....

H-HE'S GOING TO FIND US... AND *KILL* US.

BUT, AKIRA...

THE THING THAT ATTACKED DAD'S PLANE...

...IT WASN'T SHAPED LIKE A *KNIFE*.

HE SAID IT LOOKED LIKE AN *ANGEL*.

!

THAT B- BOY..

HE TOLD ME.. HE..

HE SAID HE HAD..

FRIENDS.

HUH?

FRIENDS. LIKE HIM.

I KNOW WHO IT IS.

Y. YOU DO? HOW...I MEAN...

THIS GUY WAS AT THE *HOSPITAL.*

REMEMBER I TOLD YOU TWO PASSENGERS DISAPPEARED FROM THAT PLANE I WAS IN THAT GOT ATTACKED?

YOU SAW THEM *AGAIN?*

ONE OF THEM.

WITH EYES LIKE THIS.

SHIINA...?

THAT GUY...

LET'S *GET* HIM.

...?!
"GET HIM"...?
I...I DON'T...

B-
BUT..
HOW...?

THE
HOSPITAL.

THE..
HOSPITAL?

I..I
DON'T KNOW,
SHINA...

WELL
...?!

YEAH.

HE
MIGHT
COME
AGAIN.

WHAT
DO YOU
SUGGEST
WE DO?

WE CAN'T JUST *FORGET* ABOUT IT... CAN WE?

THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT YOU, AK.RA.

IF...

IF THE KNIFE KID *DOES* COME AFTER US...

...WHAT DO *WE* DO?

ME.

I MIGHT JUST TRY.

...TO *KILL* HIM.

I KNOW THAT SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT...

IF I CAN SAVE OTHER PEOPLE BY DOING IT.

B-
BUT...
SHIINA...
...
...

YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN THINK NG.

WHO *ARE* THESE KIDS?

WHY HAVE THEY COME AFTER *US?*

MAYBE BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING...

...THEY *EXPECT* US TO DO ...?

A...A *MISSION?*

YEAH. . . *YEAH!!*

BUT...

K-KILLING PEOPLE ...?

I DON'T THINK...Y-YOU SHOULD EVEN SAY THINGS LIKE THAT!

WHY NOT?!
THEY TRIED TO KILL MY DADDY!!
HE COULD'VE DIED!!

SH... SHIINA ...?

OH...

S... SORRY.

MY D-DAD... HE *COULD* HAVE DIED...

BUT MISTER ONO... HE *DID*.

TO BE CONTINUED...

From a dying planet shall come the children of light...

Shiina Tamai is an awkward, self-conscious teenager, struggling with school and self-esteem. But her daily travails become of secondary importance when she encounters and bonds with an extraterrestrial shape-shifting creature, one of a menagerie of spaceborn entities now on Earth, including terrifying Shadow Dragons, flying beasts of vast and lethal powers. And a new creature has emerged, an etheral flying "angel" whose wide, sparkling eyes and graceful wings mask even greater dangers – which become painfully apparent to any who encounter her!

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